

Hawks vs. Northville — something must give

By TOM BAER

Farmington Harrison wants a Western League football title and a berth in the state Class A playoffs. Northville High has similar goals.

So it'll be a something has to give situation when Harrison and Northville both play through four games play each other on Friday (Oct. 15) at 8 p.m. before a sellout crowd at Northville. The game ranks as one of the most important in West Michigan football this weekend and the outcome probably will decide the WSL championship.

Both teams have demonstrated powerful offenses this season. Northville has a definite size advantage.

"We're worried," admitted Harrison coach John Herrington, whose team trounced a weak Plymouth Canton club 64-6 last Friday.

"Northville is a tough team and undefeated. They have a very explosive offense and good size. They're bigger than we are. We don't have a player over 185 pounds on the line. Their line must average 200. And they have a big play offense — an explosive attack. They can hit you with those passes at any time."

Coach Chuck Shorta's Northville squad showed its "big play" offense last Friday night when it came from behind to beat upset-minded Livonia Churchill 17-12 in a WSL game.

Quarterback safety Greg Armstrong and nose guard Mark Moreland.

But Harrison has its own big playmaker — fullback Mike Bowden. Harrison is enjoying its best football season ever, and Bowden is responsible for much of its success.

So far, the 6-1, 195-pound Bowden has rushed for 710 yards and is averaging 177.5 yards per game. He's also scored eight of Harrison's 20 touchdowns. No team has really stopped Bowden, although Livonia Churchill "held" him to 102 yards rushing and kept him out of the endzone.

"Northville probably will key on Bowden somewhat," Herrington said. "Chuck Shorta usually does a good job of defending us, and there'll be something special for Bowden. I'm sure."

"But it's pretty hard to stop him with any kind of defense. We're still going to give him the ball. Northville's not changing that."

But Harrison's offense amounts to more than just Mike Bowden. Quarterback Jeff Thorne passed for two touchdowns against Churchill after the Chargers had slowed Bowden. Hawk fullback Jay Payne has proved to be a dependable runner.

THE OVERFLOW crowd at Northville could be a factor in the outcome of the game. A good Northville football team traditionally draws a large following of adults from the town as well as the school population.

"When we were over there scouting Northville, this game was all the people were talking about," Herrington said. "Northville may have looked over the Churchill game a little bit waiting for our game. In the Northville paper, the headline read: 'One more hurdle before the Hawks.' They're really building up for this one."

Two key Harrison players are injured. Bob Thompson, an all-league safety, is still nursing a knee injury suffered in practice, but he's expected to be ready for the Northville game. Jerry Finlayson, the starting tight end, has an ankle injury and may not play.

A Harrison victory over Northville wouldn't guarantee a WSL football crown or an undefeated season for the Hawks. Waterford West, which has yet to lose in the WSL, will have a shot at Harrison on Oct. 21. Non-league South Farmington, which upset rated Bloomfield Hills Laber a couple weeks ago, will play Harrison on Nov. 6.

Harrison's toughest game may come on Nov. 11, the last Saturday of the regular season when rugged Plymouth Salem attacks the Hawks' field. Last Saturday Salem surprised highly rated Trenton 13-0 in a Suburban Eight League game.

Meanwhile Harrison's players are feeling the pressure of the Northville challenge. "I think they're starting to feel it a little bit," Herrington said. "Quite a bit has been expected of us this season. We're just taking them one game at a time — but this is a big one."

Northville High is located at 775 N. Center Street north of Base Line Road.

Farmington Observer

SPORTS

Want Ads (INSIDE)

Thursday, October 14, 1976

(F1C)

A defensive struggle

Franklin nips North

By TOM BAER

Livonia's Franklin defeated North Farmington 16-15 last Saturday in a Northeast Suburban League football game which featured a few rare defensive plays as well as a few rare offensive plays by both squads.

It was a typical Franklin North Farmington game, just like we've had over the years," said Franklin coach Armand Vigna, who coached the Patriots to the state Class A football title last season. "It was very much a defensive struggle. I think our defense line and our linebackers did an outstanding job."

North Farmington coach Ben Holland probably will agree with that assess-

ment. But in fact the game started and ended with spectacular scoring plays.

With 3:32 left in the first quarter, North's Mark Thompson took a punt and ran 60 yards along the Franklin sideline for a touchdown. Sophomore Tim Quinn provided a key block on the runback, and then kicked the extra point.

Franklin put two points on the board in the next quarter when a Patriot tackled a North player in the endzone after a blocked punt. Later in the quarter, Frank found itself in a fourth-down-and-one situation from the North three-yard line. Phil Vuhast took the handoff but couldn't cross the goal line. He fumbled and the ball squirmed into the endzone where a North man fell on it.

But the football eluded his hands also finally to be recovered by Franklin quarterback Dave Wilson for the touchdown. Ken Scarpace kicked the PAT, and Franklin led 9-7 at halftime.

NORTH REGAINED the lead in the third quarter when Bob Miller ran one yard for a touchdown. Greg Hughes lined up the ball for the extra point, but the play turned out to be a fake and Hughes ran over for the two-point conversion. At the end of the third quarter, North led 15-9.

Vigna had one last trick left, and it resulted in Franklin's comeback and eventual victory. On a first-down play, Franklin's Wilson passed behind the line of scrimmage to Dennis Smith, who passed to Scarpace for a 50-yard touchdown play. Scarpace then kicked the decisive extra point.

I decided on first down that we were going to go for everything," Vigna said. "We had to go deep into the bag for that play. I was hoping it would work — and it did."

Livonia Franklin gained 153 yards on the ground with Vuhast picking up 88 on 24 carries. The Patriots completed three passes in eight attempts for 85 yards.

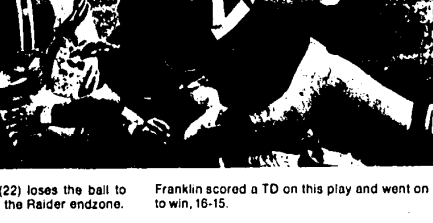
North gained only 52 yards rushing. Paul Patek led with 22 yards in 11 carries. They passed for 69 yards, completing three of six attempts.

HOLLAND whose team upset ranked Bloomfield Hills Laber a week earlier, had praise for his defense.

"We played great defense," Holland said. "Bob Miller was the leading tackler. Tim Quinn, Thompson and Bill Ross all played great."

North Farmington, now 2-2 overall and 0-1 in the NSL, plays next at Westland John Glenn at 4 p.m. Friday (Oct. 15). Glenn rated the sixth best Class A team in the state by some polls, hasn't allowed a point through its first four games.

Franklin, now 2-2 overall and 2-2 in the league, takes on Rochester Adams at home at 2 p.m. Saturday (Oct. 16).



North's Andy Salinas (22) loses the ball to Franklin's Dave Wilson in the Raider endzone. Franklin scored a TD on this play and went on to win, 16-15.



Franklin's Dave Wilson (left) spots a receiver. (Photos by Harry Mauthe)

Falcons play 'best game', but Stevenson triumphs

STEVENS—FARMINGTON

Behind the running of fullback Chuck Demarco and the pinpoint passing of quarterback Jim Dolmetech, Livonia Stevenson defeated Farmington 20-10 Saturday afternoon to claim undefeated possession of first place in the Inter-Lakes League football race.

Demarco led for 80 yards in 17 carries to build all numbers in the grid battle, while Dolmetech connected on eight of 11 passes for 134 yards and a touchdown. The win was Stevenson's fourth without a loss this season.

The Spartans worked for the first good scoring chance of the contest in the opening quarter. However, after driving 80 yards in 15 plays, Stevenson fumbled the ball near the Farmington goal line. The pigskin bounced out of the end zone thwarting the scoring opportunity and giving the Falcons possession at their own 20.

Both defenses slugged it out the rest of the quarter and much of the second.

Farmington finally broke the deadlock midway through the second quarter on a 36-yard field goal by Chuck Calo. The Falcons drove 73 yards in 18 plays for their initial points.

Stevenson claimed the lead three minutes later when Dolmetech capped an 8-0 lead.

Stevenson's defense was stout. It took the Spartans seven plays to move 45 yards. Jim Spala booted the extra point to make it 20-3.

Farmington refused to fold. Taking possession of the ball at the Stevenson 40 late in the game, the Falcons drove the distance in 13 plays for their only touchdown.

Ron Patric's scored from one yard out with 36 seconds remaining and Cleo Cielik the extra point.

Stevenson coach Jack Rardon indicated that a solid team effort led to victory. Outstanding defensive players, according to Rardon, were Spala, Steve Taylor, Bill Finn, Bill Gardner and Mark Laskar.

"Mike Sims and Craig Barton were outstanding blockers," the Spartans coach said, adding that Dolmetech has completed 32 of 43 passes this year for 489 yards and four touchdowns.

Patric and Rick Miltner each gained 54 yards rushing for the Falcons, who saw their league record slip to 1-1, 1-3 overall.

"This will sound weird," said Farmington coach Hal Bevedley, "but this is the best ball game we've played all year. The kids sustained some drives for once. This is the best game the offensive line has played all year."

Stevenson-Farmington

	SP	FB
First down rushing	10	8
First down passing	3	1
First down penalty	1	2
Yards rushing	100	107
Yards passing	130	34
Passes completed	11	10
Passes attempted	20	24
Passing average	6.5	2.7
Fumbles—No. lost	1	2
Punt—Yards lost	44	23
Live on field	1	1
North Farmington	0	0

Scoring

North Farmington—Mark Thompson 60 pass to Tim Quinn (kick).

Franklin—Sally North player kicked in end.

Franklin—Dave Wilson 1st on 60 yards in end zone.

Ken Scarpace kick.

North Farmington—Bob Miller 1 run (Greg Hughes kick).

Franklin—Scarpace 50 pass from Dennis Smith (Scarpace kick).

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