

On to the Silverdome! It's Harrison vs. Dow in Class A grid final

By TOM BAER

Coach John Herrington has been saving all along that having his Farmington Hawks squad in the state Class A football playoffs would be "a dream come true."

Well, that dream has been a reality for almost two weeks now, and Herrington hopes it can last through just one more football game Saturday — the most important and most exciting date of the long season.

Harrison, which breezed through the regular season with a 9-0 record and earned a Western Six League title and a berth in the playoffs, crushed Midland Heights Lamphere 21-0 in the playoff semifinal last Saturday at Pontiac's Windsor Stadium. Harrison will oppose Midland Dow in the Class A final beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday (Nov. 20) in the Pontiac Silverdome.

It's almost as exciting, Herrington said, "It's everything we dreamed of and worked for. It's great for our kids because they worked so hard for this. We just feel very fortunate and hope we can make a good showing on Saturday."

Unbeaten Midland Dow rallied for 25 fourth-quarter points to overcome Lincoln Park 24-17 in the other Class A semifinal last Saturday in Lansing. Herrington viewed this of that game, and he knows his team's defense will have quite a job on its hands. Dow's point-to-point offense and its powerful running backs.



Thursday, November 25, 1978

(FHC)

HARRISON FACED another workhorse team, Plymouth Salem, in the final game of the regular season. Harrison won 28-14, but Salem piled up more than 300 yards rushing and gave the Hawks a few anxious moments early in the game.

Dow doesn't run the workhorse formula exactly like Salem, Herrington said. Dow uses power plays — they lead their backs through the line and then give it to Scott Alexander. And they use crossbacks starting the backs one way and then having them come back the other way.

Dow doesn't try to freeze you as much as Salem does. Dow just runs a lot of power at you. They have power to spare.

A successful workhorse offense needs a good running quarterback, and Dow has one of the best in Kevin Northing. He's six feet two and weighs 170 pounds. He's just like a horse, Herrington said.

Herrington admitted that Dow's running backs are "better than we've seen all year." For example, halfback Alexander, who scored two touchdowns against Lincoln Park, has rushed for more than 1500 yards this season.

Alexander is very comparable to Mike Bowden, Harrison's powerful fullback, who has scored 21 touchdowns, including the three against Lamphere. Herrington said, "He (Alexander) runs hard and has great balance. He's a heck of a back and we have to stop him somehow."

OTHER DOW running threats are Rick Berry, who ran for two touchdowns against Lincoln Park, and Dan Clark, who gained more than 800 yards during the season and is also a kicking threat. He made good on a 35-yard field goal against Lincoln Park. Herrington is also impressed with Dow tackle Kevin Verner. "He's a big and, boy, does he block. He'll be playing against our Fred Blackmer. That should be one heck of a matchup."

Herrington hopes his team can have at least one practice session on the AstroTurf of the Silverdome, the possibility would be the Silverdome's outdoor practice field, which is part AstroTurf.

"I'd like to go to the Silverdome's practice field," he said. "Usually, you can't go to the field where you're going to be playing the game. The University of Michigan's field would be another possibility, although their artificial surface is different from the Silverdome's."

Harrison's players will be fitted with special shoes, designed for wear on the artificial football field. The shoes are on loan from the Wayne State University team. Farmington Athletic Director Jack Galton, a 1953 alumna, arranged the loan.

Harrison's Bowden grabbed the headlines after the Lamphere game by scoring three touchdowns and rushing for 202 yards in 41 carries. But Harrison's victory also reflected its fine offensive line and defense.

"**BOB SUTTER**, our line coach, does a great job with those kids," Herrington said. "They're experienced and well disciplined and they make very few mistakes. And Bob Sutter, who coaches our ends, also does a great job. We've gotten a lot of good blocking from our tight ends, Tim Turner and Kent Harsch."

"We gave Turner the Lineman of the Game award after the Lamphere game because he did a great job of blocking and he really shook their quarterback one time."

Tackle Fred Blackmer played his usual strong game, and upback John Payne received the Back of the Game award "because he just blocked beautifully," according to Herrington. "He's playing with a broken bone in his foot, and that takes guts."

Little 5-10 and 150 pounds and little-known Harrison quarterback Jeff Thorne came through with some surprise runs against Lamphere.

"After the game, a lot of people were saying, 'Hey, that kid (Thorne) is a real good quarterback. It's a fun fact he was left off most of the better teams,'" Herrington said. "He had a good game. It wasn't one of his best, but he played well and showed good leadership. He ran well to the outside when we needed it."

And so the Harrison football dream continues. The Hawks — Bowden, Thorne, Turner, Blackmer, and the rest — are anticipating their biggest test of the season. Sure, there's a lot of pressure, but it'll be fun, too, Herrington said.

"It'll be great to play in the Silverdome," he said. "It'll be fun, even though there'll be a lot of empty seats. Just playing on that artificial surface will be fun, something out of the ordinary."



Harrison's Mike Bowden is off and running against Madison Heights Lamphere in the state Class A semifinal playoff game at Pontiac's Windsor Stadium. Bowden scored three touchdowns and gained 202 yards in 41 carries to lead Harrison to a 21-0 victory and a shot at the Class A football crown. (Staff photos by Tom Baer)

touchdowns and gained 202 yards in 41 carries to lead Harrison to a 21-0 victory and a shot at the Class A football crown. (Staff photos by Tom Baer)



A happy Harrison fan hugs one of her Hawks following Harrison's easy 21-0 victory over Lamphere. Harrison, now 10-0, advances to the Class A final next Saturday at the Pontiac Silverdome. An unbeaten Midland Dow squad will provide the opposition.

N. Farmington girls win league swim meet

North Farmington continued its dominance of the Northwest Suburban League girls swimming competition by winning the NSL meet and league crown last week at Thurston High.

Coach Pat Debie's North squad scored 302 points in the league meet to go with its 6-0 league dual-meet record. Westland John Glenn was second with 221 points. Livonia Franklin had 253 and Thurston High 114. Garden City East, also an NSL school, doesn't have girls swimming.

"Overall, we swam pretty well," said Debie, who is in his second season as North's coach. "I was a little disappointed that we didn't swim better in some places, but generally speaking we did a fine job. A lot of our kids vastly improved their times over the start of the year."

North, which won eight of the 11 events, was paced by sophomore Maureen Jewell, who established two league records in individual events and also swam on a record-setting relay. She set conference standards in the 200-yard individual medley (2:24) and the 100-yard butterfly (1:04.7), and then belted the Raiders' 400-yard freestyle relay (Patty Gasser, Mary Sue Patek and Debra Harts) set a league record of 5:38.1. Jewell has qualified for five individual events and is part of a qualifying relay for O.B.E.

the Class A state meet, set for Dec. 34 at Central Michigan University.

She was down with a cold during the league meet, but she still did a fine job, winning the two races and swimming on the winning relay. Debbie said.

NORTH had another double winner in Hirsch, a junior. She set a league record in the 100 freestyle with a 57.5 clocking, and won the 50 freestyle in a record 29.2. Gasser won the 200 freestyle in 2:12.1. Patek took the 500 freestyle in a record 6:04.5, and sophomore Britta Nielsen topped the 100 backstroke in 1:11.7.

Debie also was impressed with Gidge Riter, another North sophomore. "She took five seconds off her 200 free time and 10 seconds off her 500 free time," he said. "She finished 10th in the 200 and fourth in the 500, so we were really pleased with her."

John Glenn's 200 medley relay (Rhonda Daxner, Jody Garbus, Colleen Rehahn and Jean Saxon) won in 2:09.5. Garbus won the 100 breaststroke in 1:16.8, and Franklin's Jan Chase won the diving competition with 272.25 points.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN LEAGUE MEET

TEAM FINISH — North Farmington 302 points.

Westland John Glenn 221, Livonia Franklin 253, Thurston High 114.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

200 MEDLEY — Westland John Glenn Rhonda Daxner, Jody Garbus, Colleen Rehahn and Jean Saxon 2:09.5. North Farmington Colleen Rehahn, Jody Garbus, Cathy Burke and Britta Nielsen 2:12.1. Livonia Franklin 2:14.2. Garden City East 2:18.1. **100 FREESTYLE** — Patty Gasser, NF, 1:04.7. Barb Woodard, NF, 1:18.4. Ruth Weidman, NF, 1:19.0.

500 FREESTYLE — Mary Sue Patek, NF, 6:04.5. League record: Cathy Burke, NF, 6:12.2. Sherri Kewenewitz, NF, 6:18.5.

100 FREESTYLE — Debra Hirsch, NF, 57.5. League record: Patty Gasser, NF, 1:04.7. Colleen Rehahn, NF, 1:11.7.

200 FREESTYLE — Mary Sue Patek, NF, 2:12.1. League record: Barb Woodard, NF, 2:14.2. Maureen Jewell, NF, 2:24.0.

100 BACKSTROKE — Britta Nielsen, NF, 1:11.7. League record: Barb Woodard, NF, 1:18.4. Ruth Weidman, NF, 1:19.0.

500 BACKSTROKE — Jody Garbus, NF, 6:04.5. League record: Cathy Burke, NF, 6:12.2. Sherri Kewenewitz, NF, 6:18.5.

100 BUTTERFLY — Debra Hirsch, NF, 1:04.7. League record: Patty Gasser, NF, 1:04.7. Colleen Rehahn, NF, 1:11.7.

200 BUTTERFLY — Mary Sue Patek, NF, 2:24.0. League record: Cathy Burke, NF, 2:24.0. Maureen Jewell, NF, 2:24.0.

400 FREESTYLE RELAY — North Farmington Patty Gasser, Mary Sue Patek, Debra Hirsch, Maureen Jewell 5:38.1. League record: Westland John Glenn Cathy Burke, Kathy Scholten, Heather B. Harts, Laura Gregg 5:38.1. Livonia Franklin Val Rasmussen, All Lendner, Maureen Weidman, Sherri Kewenewitz 5:41.3.

IS THIS YOU?



You will be surprised how much better you play.
For more information, call: 332-9221



Square Lake Racquet Club

799 Denison Court
Bloomfield Hills, Mi. 48301
332-9221

You have an all around good game, except for one shot. It could be your serve, your backhand, or maybe you have trouble hitting it over-head. Whatever it is, you know if you could master the shot, it would greatly improve your game.

At Square Lake Racquet Club we feel we have just what you need. Starting November 29, in addition to our regular clinics, Square Lake Racquet Club is holding special stroke production clinics. In one of these clinics, you spend five weeks working on only the shots in which you need improvement.