

Thurston Halts Franklin, Gains Title Share

Hoist the pennant over Thurston High.

For the second year in a row Coach Bill McDonald's Eagles have assured themselves of finishing on top in the Northwest Suburban League.

Past season, Thurston shared honors with North Farmington and Franklin.

Now, if Thurston can tie or beat John Glenn Saturday, it'll be an undisputed flag.

Thurston made it two straight over "biggie" Saturday downing Franklin, 13-6.

THE WEEK before Thurston had dropped North Farmington from the list of the perfect. This time it was

Franklin which took a spotless mark against Thurston.

But when it was all over in a bitter defensive struggle, Thurston boasted its sixth victory in six starts while Franklin's record read 5-1.

If Glenn does upset Thurston Saturday, the winner between North Farmington and Franklin, who are booked for

another head-on duel the same day, shares the title.

Coach George Lovich, of Franklin, had only complaints, especially for his defensive players, after losing to Thurston.

"It was a tremendous job our kids turned in against their powerful attack," said Lovich, who noted that Franklin's defensive corps included

seven juniors and just one senior.

LIKE OTHER rivals, Franklin found it tough to contain Thurston ace Craig Mutch who sprinted for two touchdowns and kicked his season's total to 14. He also gained 100 of the 104 yards Thurston compiled all afternoon.

"Just about everybody else who carried the ball for Thurston wound up with a minus record," Lovich added, in talking about his defense.

Match punched his way from the one for both the Thurston TD's. The first came in the first period after a Ron Barringer to Mutch pass covered 25 yards.

The second tally came in the fourth period when Mutch and Dan Thorpe with 29 seconds left.

FRANKLIN went 51 yards in five plays in the closing moments to avert a shutout. Two passes -- from Frank Kasperak to Wayne Florida for 30 yards and another to Jeff Kind for seven, helped set up a

two-yard drive for the TD by Dan Thorpe with 29 seconds left.

Statistically, the game was as close as the score. Franklin hit on seven passes for 88 yards. Thurston picked up 46 yards in the air. Rushing saw Thurston defense, which again produced a lot of cheers from Coach McDonald.



HELMET OR NOT Thurston's brilliant Craig Mutch drives through the Franklin forward wall for a long gain. Mutch tallied two touchdowns as the Eagles rolled past unbeaten Franklin, 13-6, for their sixth straight triumph. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

Only Farmington Stands Between Spartans, Crown

There can be no letdown for Stevenson High's football team this week.

Now is there likely to be one despite the fact Stevenson is matched with Farmington, a one-time winner this season compared to the Spartans' success mark which shows five triumphs against a single loss.

Two much rides on the outcome of the game with Farmington to make it necessary for Stevenson Coach Jack Reardon to have to make much of a pep talk.

A victory or a tie assures the Spartans an outright championship of the Inter-Lakes Conference for the second year in a row.

A victory also would make it two straight years of only wins for the Livonians in conference competition.

of nifty halfbacks on defense. "Yes, I think we can win our final two games," said Reardon.

AFTER FARMINGTON comes North Farmington and the latter will fire one of the area's most potent offenses against Stevenson.

There are many who figure

the Spartans and Raiders to be the two top teams in the area.

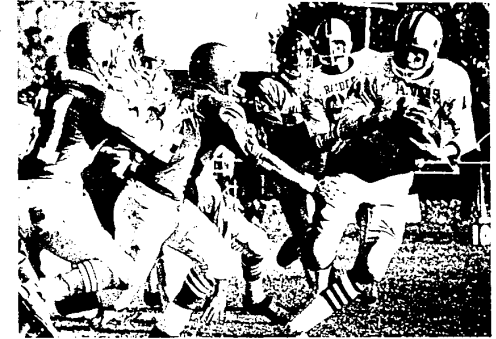
Rusty Gregg continued his fine offensive work as did Gene Walker in the game against Lathrup.

Gregg bounced in for two touchdowns, first from the 12 to cap a 45-yard advance. Then he cracked over from the one

after Basile and Walker had helped bring the ball deep into Lathrup territory.

It was Walker from the two to finish the Stevenson scoring. Gregg and Walker again ripped off long gainers on this drive.

It was pretty much a ground game for Stevenson, which gained 226 yards rushing to 34 in the air.



TAKING TO THE GROUND after passing for almost 300 yards is N. Farmington's Steve White (11) who swings wide around end on an option play against Oak Park. The Raiders rolled to their fifth victory in six starts, whipping the Farmers, 30-0. (Photo by Warren Bopp)

Agatha Puts Title Hopes On Block

Opportunity knocks for St. Agatha High School's football team Sunday.

And what an opportunity.

The Townshippers will be playing for the Catholic League's Southwest Division title when they face St. Francis de Sales at Cooley High at 2:30 p.m.

Both match identical records -- five wins and a tie.

St. Agatha loomed into a tie for the front spot in the division with a 15-0 victory over Lourdes while St. Francis de Sales was

led by Wayne St. Mary's.

For once, Mike Murphy didn't score for St. Agatha, but the brilliant back wasn't stopped.

All he did was chalk up 161 yards on the ground and that brought his season's total to 1,135, one of the highest -- if not the highest -- in Michigan prep circles this fall.

Dennis Blazok, who has been equally brilliant for St. Agatha, scored both the team's touchdowns.

First he recovered a fumble and went over and then he scampered in on a seven-yard run.

"We'll be ready for St. Mary's," declared Mike Bennane, the St. Agatha coach who has enjoyed a brilliant season -- in this his first as head man at the school.

He talked about Tim Muldoon, a big man in Stevenson's defensive machine.

There were cheers for John Jetchick and Ray Basile, a pair

WINNERS

Michigan State's football record against non-Big Ten foes in the 16 years that Duffy Daugherty has been head coach stands at 36-12-2.

Sorrows' Dreams For Title Ended By St. James

So much ended so quickly for Our Lady of Sorrows' football team.

Dreams of a perfect season... dreams of a divisional title...

Preps Race In Harrier Regionals

It's regional time Saturday for Michigan's high school cross country runners.

Cherwelland Class A schools have been assigned to race at Cass Be. on Park and in Royal Oak.

The meet at Cass Be. on will feature unbeaten Redford Union, facing Plymouth, Bentley, Stevenson, Churchill, Garden City East, Garden City West and Thurston, among others.

Farmington and North Farmington will go to Royal Oak. The regionals will determine who goes to Ypsilanti the following Saturday for the state meet.

Iowa Hosts Spartans

EAST LANSING

It'll be Homecoming Day for Iowa fans when their Hawkeyes host Michigan State Saturday, Oct. 25, and also something special for a Spartan player and a couple of Iowa assistant coaches.

Not only will the grads see the game, but it'll also be the Midwest Game of the Week of NCAA Television on ABC, with kickoff time 1:50 p.m., CDT.

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