



Two of Harrison's biggest hopes are Dave Tremonti (left) and Brad Senko. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Falcons, Raiders tough; Hawk harriers rebuilding

By C.J. RISAK

It should be a very interesting year for the Farmington schools cross country teams.

Farmington and North Farmington are both coming off second place finishes in their respective leagues, and both have runners returning that could push them into the top spot.

Harrison, meanwhile, had a mediocre year and finished third in its league. It will be a rebuilding year for the Hawks, with a squad made up entirely of sophomores and juniors.

All three squads got an early taste of what talent the competition in their leagues has at the West Bloomfield Invitational. It was the first competition of the season for north and Harrison. Farmington ran a dual meet earlier last week.

Here's how things look for all three schools, and what kind of chances they have in the leagues.

FARMINGTON

Lack of depth and injuries are the key problems for Coach Gerry Young's harriers. The team's top two runners from last season's team, which posted a 9-2 dual meet record, are back.

But it won't be that simple for the Falcons. Senior Eric Leidlein, the No. 2 runner last year, is bothered by a knee injury and, Young admits, "He'll probably be lost for half the season."

Still, things are not all that bleak for Farmington. John Murphy, the defending Inter Lakes League champion, is back for his senior season. Steve Madonis, another senior, also returns to bolster the team.

Two sophomores Young is counting on heavily are Bill Atkinson and Bill Anglin.

"Atkinson is going to be a real good runner," Young said, and it may have been an understatement. In the team's win over Kettering last Thursday, Lei-

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NORTH FARMINGTON

North Farmington finished second with a 7-4 dual meet record last year in the Northwest Suburban League (NSL). It looks as if the Raiders should at least repeat that performance this year.

Three runners return for their senior seasons — Greg Rapp, who was No. 2 last year, Joe Phillips, the No. 3 man a year ago, and Doug McEwen, the No. 6 man. It should be enough to build a solid team around.

Coach Ed Davis has three other runners who should help the team. Two are seniors who, although they haven't run cross country before, did run track: Dave Hooper and Pete Musselman.

The third runner is sophomore Rich Fruitman, who Davis says "could be No. 2 for us." Fifteen kids are trying out for the team, and the other positions are up for grabs.

"We have a whole flock of kids fighting it out for the other spots," Davis says.

The season opener at West Bloomfield probably won't help Davis, too much, since he won't get to see most of his NSL rivals.

"I'll know better who's back (on the other teams) and who's tough after the Schoolcraft Invitational (Sept. 15). That's when I'll get the chance to see

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Waterford tops Lakers in the Silverdome, 14-6

By C.J. RISAK

It really wasn't all that bad.

West Bloomfield did lose its opening football game, 14-6, to Waterford Township last Friday at the Pontiac Silverdome. The contest was the first of two prep games in the second annual prep double-header at the Silverdome.

But, talking to the two team's coaches after the game, one might get the wrong idea who won. Although there were several things Laker head coach Dom Livedoti didn't like about his team's performance, he was more than happy with the way they hung in against increasing adversity.

"We stuck right with them," Livedoti said afterwards. "We could have won it. They are a tough football team, more experienced than we are."

"We made some bonehead plays. The only aspect of the game plan I said we had to follow was 'at we had to keep the football. We just didn't have the football enough.'"

A major reason they didn't have the football was a first-quarter injury to starting quarterback Chris Mayone. Mayone crashed to the hard Silverdome Astroturf and suffered a bruised elbow. He returned to the game as a wide receiver and played in the defensive backfield for the rest of the night, but was unable to throw effectively.

SOPHOMORE KEVIN ASHER, who had no game experience and had played nothing but little league football, came off the bench to fill in for Mayone. His performance earned praise from Livedoti.

"He had no previous experience," the Laker coach said. "I think he did a remarkable job."

It was Asher who rallied the Lakers to their only score in the fourth quarter. Trailing 14-0, Asher completed a 23-yard pass to senior end Bill Roeln on the first play of the drive to move the ball to Waterford's 40-yard line.

Three plays gained six yards for the Lakers, and a fourth down pass interference call against Waterford gave West Bloomfield a first down at the Waterford 19.

Three runs yielded a yard, and on fourth down

and nine, Asher connected with Rick Mickley for a first down at the eight. Two plays later Dan Kenwell plunged over from the one and West Bloomfield trailed, 14-6. Waterford blocked the extra point.

West Bloomfield had a chance, recovering the ensuing outside kickoff. But Waterford's John Shallman intercepted Asher's third down pass and Waterford ran out the clock for the win.

"We concentrated very much on our offense so far this year, but West Bloomfield will always have a good defense," Livedoti said. "We always have and we always will."

Indeed, it was the defense that kept the Lakers in the game in the early going. But it was a defensive mistake that aided Waterford first touchdown.

THE SKIPPERS GOT a break early in the opening quarter when West Bloomfield was called for pass interference, giving Waterford a first down at the 50 yard line. The Skippers drove to the 28, and halfback Tom Shellnut uncorked a 28-yard scoring pass to Butch Paugher for the score.

Waterford converted on the two-point conversion and took an early 8-0 lead.

Mistakes plagued both teams throughout the second and third quarters, but late in the third Waterford mounted its second scoring drive. Starting from their own 14, the Skippers marched 88 yards in eight plays for the touchdown. Marty Scott was the workhorse in the drive, carrying three times for 34 yards.

But it was Shellnut who provided the scoring, racing around left end from 28 yards out for the TD. West Bloomfield blocked the extra point and came back with a score of their own before the clock ran out.

Shellnut and Scott were the leading ballcarriers in the game, each gaining 84 yards. Shellnut carried the ball 20 times and Scott handled it 18 times.

Asher led all passers, completing five of seven for 63 yards while throwing two interceptions. Gary Schroeder led the Laker running attack with 48 yards on eight carries.

West Bloomfield hosts Farmington next Friday at 8 p.m.

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Football injuries can crush dreams of glory

By BOB GROSS

High school football is usually filled with sights, sounds and smells such as touchdown catches, school songs and sweat-soaked practice jerseys.

But it can also be filled with sights, sounds and smells such as masked surgeons hovering over an operating table, the squeak made by nurses' rubber-soled shoes on hospital linoleum floors and the acrid odor of antiseptic.

I know about football injuries and hospitals — I've been there.

Both my left arm and my right leg have been sliced by surgeons attempting to correct damage done on the football field. To be honest, I could have broken arm anywhere — I fell the wrong way during football practice.

But the ligament tear in my right knee is the classic football injury. I got it in a Jayvee game, running downfield to cover a kickoff. Somebody — I never saw him — clipped me and a bolt of pain seared through my leg.

I had surgery in November, spent Thanksgiving in the hospital and the next two months in a cast.

The knee hurts when it's cold and damp, and it "pops" out when it's subjected to stress. I wear a metal knee brace when I play any sort of game, including slow-pitch softball.

And the rotten thing about it is not that it happened to me, but that it happens to other players as well.

FOOTBALL IS a rough, violent game. There's no way it can be made completely safe. That doesn't mean that it should be abolished, but neither does it mean we can be content with a rash of crippling injuries.

Neither does it mean we can be content with a game where a legal hit, a hit completely within the rules, can leave a player like the New England Patriots' Darryl Stingley paralyzed.

Knee injuries are difficult to prevent. If your foot is planted in one direction and sufficient force is applied to the knee in a lateral direction, then the ligaments in the knee are going to snap even if you're wearing a brace.