

# North gridders edged in opener

North Farmington's pass defense crumbled under the weight of Flint's Southwestern quarterback Derrick Jackson's three touchdown tosses last Saturday and dropped a 22-16 decision at Flint's Atwood Stadium.

North jumped out to an early 8-0 lead in the first quarter. Dante DiVito nailed Jackson in the end zone for a Raider safety, and then running back Dan Cohen slashed into the end zone from two yards out for the first North touchdown.

But Jackson rallied Southwestern, Northwest Suburban League title hitting wide receiver Darryl Turner with two touchdown passes in the second quarter. The first scoring toss covered 22 yards and, with a successful two-point conversion, tied the score at 8-8.

Later in the period, Jackson again found Turner open and hit him for a 29-yard touchdown. Again the two-point conversion was good, and Flint had a 16-8 halftime lead.

"We just ran into a team with more team speed," North coach Ron Holland said afterwards. "They had a lot of speed and a lot of quickness."

North's pass defense was beaten again in the third quarter, this time by Copos Robinson who grabbed a 12-yard scoring pass from Jackson. The extra point attempt failed, and the Raiders trailed, 22-8.

North rallied for a final touchdown in the last period as Rich Nutter bulled in from two yards out. Nutter also converted the two-point conversion to cut Flint's lead to 22-16, but it was the final time North could get on the board.

"OTHER THAN SOME first game mistakes, I thought we played well," Holland said. "Some penalties hurt us, but overall we looked good. The kids from two yards out for the first North touchdown."

"I think we'll be right in there (the Flint game) in the Northwest Suburban League title hitting wide receiver Darryl Turner with two touchdown passes in the second quarter. The first scoring toss covered 22 yards and, with a successful two-point conversion, tied the score at 8-8."

Flint faced a crucial third down and 12 situation late in the game, but Jackson again found a receiver open for a gain 17 yards, good for a first down. The key play allowed Flint to run out the clock.

Jackson completed nine of 17 passes for 137 yards, with one interception for Flint. The team gained 121 yards on the ground.

For North, Cohen gained 79 yards on 12 carries for one touchdown, and Nutter ramblled for 71 yards on 14 attempts for one touchdown and a two-point conversion. Greg Goldstein connected on seven of 18 tosses for 80 yards. Nutter caught four for 50 yards and Pat Carney had two receptions for 27 yards.

## Harrison to face Groves

# Raiders, Falcons look to rebound

By C.J. RISAK

Harrison gripped, North dipped and Farmington slipped.

The only Farmington-area high school to win its opening football game last weekend was Harrison, which defeated cross-town rival Farmington High, 28-20. North Farmington, last year's Class A runner up, probably ended its playoff hopes this season with a 22-16 loss at Flint Southwestern.

Despite the setback, Farmington looks to be much improved over last season. The Falcons trailed several times Saturday, but kept battling back and, with a few breaks or the absence of some costly penalties, might have come away with the win.

But there are some big "ifs" there. Harrison quarterback Bruce Morrison unleashed a great passing attack to account for 199 yards. He threw for two touchdowns and ran for another.

If Morrison can continue to pass like that, there may not be a team in Harrison's schedule that can stand between the Hawks and a Western Six League title and even a playoff berth. But the playoffs are a long way off.

Farmington has to improve in two areas: the offense has to move the ball (it started to in the second half against Harrison), and there has to be some sort of pass defense.

North faced a fine team in Flint

Southwestern last Saturday, and did it in front of a hostile crowd at Flint's Atwood Stadium. North Coach Ron Holland blamed the loss on Southwestern's superior speed, and three Flint touchdown passes may indicate where the lack-of-speed problem may be.

Still, North did outgain the Flint squad. When Holland said the seniors on this team, who had seen the varsity lose only twice before this season, knew how to win, he also meant that experience might bring the team through in a couple of tough spots.

North will still be a power to be reckoned with in the Northwest Suburban League (NSL).

HERE'S A PREVIEW of the upcoming games this weekend for the three Farmington teams:

### HARRISON vs. GROVES

Harrison showed last Saturday that it possesses a strong, balanced offense that can strike from anywhere. Morrison, who completed 12 of 17 passes, threw for more than half of the team's total yardage, 352 yards.

The Hawks may find the going tougher against Birmingham Groves this Saturday. Groves lost its opener last Friday to Southfield High, 21-7, but still should provide Harrison with more than an even game.

The big gun for Groves is Chris Vogt, who quarterbacked and sees some action in the defensive secondary. Vogt had a rough opener against Southfield, throwing four interceptions.

Vogt may not have to throw so much this week, as the Groves running attack came alive in the second half against Southfield. Running backs Don Olsen (71 yards in 13 carries) and Rex Aubrey (49 yards in eight carries) lead a potent backfield.

The Groves defense isn't as big or as tough as it was last year. That should be good news to Harrison's fans and players.

The game, the home opener for Harrison, will start at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

### PICK—HARRISON

### FARMINGTON vs. WEST BLOOMFIELD

Last Saturday's loss to Harrison was a tough pill to swallow for Farmington coach Hal Beardsley. His team is coming off a 1-8 1978 season, his worst ever in 29 years of coaching, and he wants an improvement this season.

That should happen. The Falcon offense began to click last Saturday in the second half, mostly on the running of Bob Benge and Dave Hall. Still, the whole offense gained only 143 yards. That will have to improve against West Bloomfield.

The Farmington pass defense, which plagued the team last year, is again a problem this year. If something isn't changed in the secondary, it could cause quite a headache for Beardsley. West Bloomfield is coming off a 14-6 loss to Waterford Township, played last

Friday in the Pontiac Silverdome. But West Bloomfield seems to be in much better shape mentally. The Lakers stuck with a tough Township team despite the loss of one key player, quarterback Chris Mayone.

If Mayone is able to return to action against Farmington — he bruised his elbow falling on the Silverdome carpet — it'll be trouble for Farmington.

The game will be West Bloomfield's home opener, and will start at 7:30 p.m. Friday. PICK — WEST BLOOMFIELD

### NORTH FARMINGTON vs. W.L. CENTRAL

North Farmington is still the best team in the area.

That's hard to say after one game (and a loss as well), but any team that can travel to Flint and then play the home team evenly — and a very good home team at that — is no slouch.

It's true the Raiders have lost a lot from last season's team. But they're not lacking in talent.

They proved it last Saturday night. Behind what coach Holland termed an inexperienced offensive line, the North running backs, Dan Cohen and Rich Nutter, combined for 150 yards rushing.

Quarterback Greg Goldstein wasn't overpowering in his performance, but he did pass for 80 yards. All told, North outgained Flint, 273 to 258 in yardage.

Now North must face Walled Lake Central. "They're a very big, physical team," Holland said. It's doubtful that

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