

Lakers psyche out Farmington in grid win

By C.J. RISAK

It's a game so often measured in inches and yards, and seconds that tick away on a scoreboard clock. Football coaches dread the last seconds the most, always convinced their team can come back, if only given time.

That's not the way it worked out for Farmington's football squad last Friday night. Time turned out to be Farmington's worst enemy.

With the score 9-7 in favor of West Bloomfield and 123 remaining in the game, the Falcons faced a fourth down and seven at the Lakers' 12-yard line. Farmington Coach Hal Beardsley de-

cided to go for the field goal which, if successful, would put the Falcons ahead, 10-9.

It turned out to be a test of nerves, as West Bloomfield Coach Dom Livedoti called successive time outs in an attempt to rattle Farmington placekicker Greg Finlayson.

Livedoti's strategy worked, but not on Finlayson. The center snap was high and the kick was never attempted. Holder Tom Rogers desperation pass was incomplete and the Lakers nailed down their first victory of the season.

"It was a psyche job, yes," Livedoti said after the game about the consecutive time outs. Despite the fact the

move could have backfired on him if Finlayson had booted the three-pointer (West Bloomfield would have been unable to stop the clock having used all its time outs), Livedoti thought it was worth the gamble.

THE GAME WAS filled with mistakes and broken strategies. Farmington drove from its own 22-yard line to the West Bloomfield 12 late in the final quarter, but Bob Bengtson fumbled and the Lakers' Rick Benoit recovered.

West Bloomfield reciprocated two plays later, as third string quarterback Jeff Long fired a pass right into the hands of Farmington's Doug Parker. Parker returned the ball to the Lakers 15, setting up the final dramatic moments.

"That was my fault," Livedoti said after the game about the intercepted pass. "It was a stupid call."

Both teams were plagued by mistakes and it seemed only a matter of time before one would prove deadly. Farmington lost three fumbles and had Dan Dewar's first-quarter punt return for a touchdown called back on a clipping penalty.

But center snaps are what cost the Falcons. With less than five minutes gone in the game, the ball was snapped over punter Dave Hall's head and rolled through the end zone for a safety.

The Lakers took quick advantage of the break and, following Farmington's free kick, drove 51 yards in eight plays for a touchdown. Daryl Arnett took it the final yard for the score, the extra point kick was good and West Bloomfield led, 9-0.

FARMINGTON MOVED THE ball well offensively, but couldn't get on the board. Early in the second quarter, the Falcons drove from their own 39 to the West Bloomfield seven. With a fourth down and five facing them, Beardsley decided to go for the field goal.

Finlayson's kick was wide, however, and Farmington still trailed, 9-0.

The Falcons finally did get on the scoreboard in their next possession, going 74 yards on 13 plays. Bengtson carried it over from the two and Finlayson booted the extra point to narrow the Lakers lead to 9-7.

West Bloomfield had its scoring

chances as well but mistakes crippled them. Early in the second quarter a long pass completion from quarterback Kevin Asher to Chris Mayone was called back on a holding penalty.

And, after the Lakers recovered a Farmington fumble at the Farmington 11 in the third period, Arnett dashed into the end zone for an apparent touchdown. But the play was disallowed because of a clipping penalty on West Bloomfield.

Arnett was the leading ballcarrier for the Lakers, gaining 72 yards on 12 carries. Dan Kenwell had 26 yards on eight attempts.

John Karpach led the Farmington rushers with 100 yards on 18 carries, while Bengtson had 52 yards in 12 tries.

Farmington Observer

SPORTS

Monday, September 17, 1979

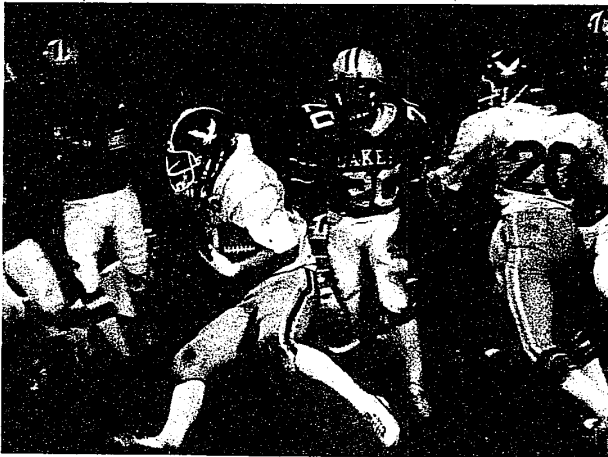
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Asher completed three of eight passes for 56 yards, while Falcon quarterback Dave Schultz also completed three of eight passes for 45 yards. West Bloomfield hosts Milford in its

opening game of the Greater Oakland Athletic League season Friday. Farmington travels to Walled Lake Central for its Inter Lakes League opener. Both games start at 7:30 p.m.



Laker running back Daryl Arnett scored the only West Bloomfield touchdown of the night.



Falcon Dave Hall (with ball) slashes through the West Bloomfield defense. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)

Nutter leads attack

North romps past WLC

North Farmington's Rich Nutter rambled for 172 yards and scored two touchdowns as the Raiders crushed Walled Lake Central, 20-0, last Friday night at Central.

Nutter scored the team's first touchdown on an 11-yard run in the second quarter and then booted the extra point to give North a 7-0 lead at the half.

In the fourth quarter, the Raiders struck for a pair of touchdowns. Nutter grabbed a 38-yard scoring pass from quarterback Greg Goldstein early in the period, and Goldstein dashed 37 yards moments later for the Raiders final score.

North's offense had little trouble mowing through Central's defense, gaining 274 yards on the ground and another 72 in the air.

But the Raider defense also sparkled, forcing five Central turnovers. The defensive secondary, victimized a week ago by Flint Southwester for three touchdown passes, this time came up with four interceptions, two by Pat Carney. In all, Central managed only 59 yards rushing and 52 passing.

Goldstein completed four of 14 passes for 72 yards and was intercepted once. He carried seven times for 23 yards. Dan Cohen added 54 yards rushing on 12 carries for the Raiders.

Central quarterback Curt Burnstein completed four of 15 tosses for 52 yards and was intercepted four times.

North, now 1-1 on the season, begins its Northwest Suburban League title defense Friday against Garden City East at East. Walled Lake Central starts its Inter Lakes League season by hosting winless Farmington.

Falcons seek improvement

Mercy aims for net title

By C.J. RISAK

Last year, it was a season of "almosts" for Our Lady of Mercy's girls' tennis team. This year it could be different.

Coach Betty Spreen's squad almost won the Catholic League title last year, but ended up losing in the playoff finals to Birmingham Marian, 4-3. The team almost went to the state meet, but missed that honor by three points in the regional finals.

Spreen hopes things are going to be different this time around.

Nine members of last year's squad return to form a solid nucleus for Spreen to work with. Five seniors, three in the top three singles positions, give the Marlins an experienced crew.

The team is off to a quick start already, beating Ladywood 5-2 last Tuesday and Bishop Gallagher, 5-2, on Thursday.

Marianne Hodges is Mercy's No. 1 singles player, with Maria Lubinski in the No. 2 spot, Kathy Mullin, No. 3, and either junior Stacy Hoogerwerf or sophomore Holly Henrikson in the No. 4 role.

In doubles, junior Patty Hildebrand and Rosanna Lubinski, a sophomore, team in the No. 1 pairing. No. 2 doubles pairs senior Sue Kaiser and sophomore Carol Conway together, and in No. 3 is either Claire Bruder, a senior, Mary Briseis, a junior, Henrikson or Hoogerwerf.

Spreen is very optimistic about the coming season. "I think it's going to be a good year," she says, but is quick to point out that Mercy's nemesis again this year in the Catholic League will be "Marian, definitely."

So far, she has no complaints. Against Gallagher, the No. 1 singles, Hodges, and the No. 4 singles, Hoogerwerf, won in straight sets. All three doubles pairings, Hildebrand and Lubinski in No. 1, Kaiser and Conway in No. 2 and Henrikson and Briseis in No. 3 also posted victories.

There's a long way to go in the season, but Marian figures to be in there right until the end. The Marlins host Bishop Burgess Thursday.

FARMINGTON

The Farmington girls tennis team is coming off a losing campaign waged last year and had a new coach this year in Ellen Zanke. The hope is that Zanke can turn the tide for the Falcon netters.

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Farmington's Sue Murphy returns one against Farmington Harrison. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)