



North Farmington's Jeff Rentz (32) hauls down Thurston's Darryl Haney. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Raiders rip Thurston in homecoming battle

By BOB GROSS

The Raiders of North Farmington made homecoming an enjoyable experience for their fans Saturday, crushing Redford Thurston 34-0.

North Farmington gave an appreciative crowd more to look at than just homecoming floats by rolling up 359 yards in total offense while holding Thurston to 51 yards.

The Raiders picked up 23 first downs and allowed two. They picked up 322 yards rushing and held Thurston to a negative six.

Rich Nutter led the North Farmington attack with 153 yards rushing in 23 carries from his tailback spot. He scored two touchdowns on the ground and completed a transcontinental pass to quarterback Greg Goldstein for another.

Dan Cohen also had a big day for the Raiders, gaining 83 yards in 11 carries and scoring a touchdown.

North Farmington started the game as if it was going to roll the outmanned Thurston squad out of the stadium, scoring on its first possession. The

Raiders went 84 yards in six plays, Cohen rushing the final 25 yards up the middle after breaking two tackles.

Nutter's extra point made it 7-0 with 6:28 remaining in the half.

But after their impressive opening drive, the Raiders started beating themselves with penalties and turnovers. Twice they drove deep into Thurston territory only to stop, once on an interception by Mark Erikson, and another time on a fumble recovery by Paul Kostigian.

"We stressed execution, we stressed concentration, we stressed a good game — no mistakes, all the things you like to do in a homecoming game," said North Farmington coach Ron Holland. "I think the defense never let up — the offense let up a little bit."

"I thought we struggled the whole second quarter."

The North Farmington offense finally got its act together with two minutes remaining in the half, driving from its 20 to the Thurston 30. With 12 seconds remaining, Nutter took a pitchout from Goldstein and swung wide to the right. He turned and threw the ball across the field back to Goldstein, who had drifted down the left sideline. Goldstein took it in for a touchdown.

Holland admitted that the transcontinental scoring pass just before halftime was a big play: "I think it kind of lifted us up a little bit at halftime," he said.

That play must have lifted the Raiders up more than just a little bit — they came back in the second half to dominate the game offensively as well as defensively.

North Farmington had touchdown drives of 58, 27 and 40 yards in the second half. In addition, Rick Roth had a 70-yard touchdown run of an interception called back because of clipping.

Nutter scored the first two touchdowns of the second half for the Raiders. Reserve quarterback Doug Shulte scored the final touchdown of the game, sneaking over from four yards out with 1:51 remaining.

"We just wanted to get in there and dominate the game," said Holland of the second half, "and that's what we did."

The win brings North Farmington's record to 3-1. The Raiders play Friday at Redford Union.

Solid RU team to test Raiders

By C.J. RISAK

For North Farmington, the easy stuff is behind. Now comes the real challenge.

The Raiders lost their season opener to Flint Southwestern, which is too bad, because it would have made this Friday's game even more attractive. As it is, it should be one great contest. Redford Union will be the opponent. The Panthers are undefeated, and the winner of the game should be the Northwest Suburban League (NSL) champions.

A glance at the rest of the North Farmington schedule will reveal that, while not easy, North should get through the rest of the league schedule undefeated. Livonia Franklin, the Raiders' opponent after Redford Union, is having an off year.

Westland John Glenn is only 2-2 on the season. North will have the home field advantage for that contest as well. But getting by Redford Union will be the big test.

North's schedule may not be too tough, but Farmington's certainly is. Fact is, Farmington coach Hal Beardsley would probably trade the last four games on his schedule for anybody else's.

The Falcons travel to Bay City Friday this Friday, but after that go up against Waterford Township (3-1 on the year), Livonia Stevenson (3-1), South-

field (4-0) and North (3-1).

Farmington Harrison has it fairly easy, for one more week at least. The Hawks host Walled Lake Western Saturday, but after that it's a battle with Livonia Churchill for the Western Six League (WSL) championship.

Winless Plymouth Canton will be the last conference game before two rough non-league contests: North Farmington and Plymouth Salem.

By the way, if anybody is interested, my picks have been perfect through the first four weeks of the season. My record is 17-0. Here's how I see the weekend's games.

NORTH-REDFORD UNION

This game will be for all the NSL marbles.

Redford Union is 4-0. The Panthers victories have included John Glenn and Livonia Stevenson.

The RU defense has been awesome. Not a single point has been scored upon it all year. Last week, Glenn's Greg O'Neil returned an interception for a touchdown, the first points scored against the Panthers.

Redford Union's offense is no slouch, either. Running backs Bob Utych and Bob Friedman gained 297 yards rushing between them against Glenn, with Utych accounting for 197 of those.

North has been anything but a pushover this season. The Raider offense (Continued on page 2B)

Farmington foils Franklin

Glenn stops HHS cagers

Farmington Harrison had an up-and-down performance last Tuesday against Westland John Glenn. Unfortunately, the game ended on a downswing for the Hawks, as they fell to Glenn, 46-35.

Harrison raced to a 14-6 lead after one quarter, but went cold in the second period. Glenn started going inside and out, scored the Hawks 14-4 in the quarter to take a 20-6 halftime lead.

Neither team took control in the third period, as the Rockets clung to a one point lead, 27-26, going into the final eight minutes. At that point Glenn's press defense started to take its toll on the Hawks, and Glenn put the game away with a 19-3 scoring advantage.

Linda Bache led Harrison with 13 points, but was forced to the bench with foul trouble for much of the second half.



Harrison's Susie Solomon dribbles around Glenn's Teri Slack. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Glenn's Kim Cesarz was the leading scorer in the contest with 15 points, and she collected 15 rebounds.

Harrison connected on only 13 of 48 floor shots (30 percent) to 20 of 38 for Glenn (52 percent). Glenn is 3-3 on the season, while Harrison dipped to 1-4.

Farmington travels to Plymouth Canton for a contest Thursday.

FARMINGTON 50 — FRANKLIN 39

Farmington broke open a close game with a 14-3 scoring blitz in the fourth quarter to beat Livonia Franklin, 50-39, Tuesday.

Franklin had led, 27-22, at the half but Farmington tied it after three quarters, 36-36. The Falcons put it away in the final eight minutes, utilizing a press defense and a four-corner offense to frustrate Franklin.

"We really got aggressive and hustled well," Farmington coach Bob Lekovich said. Sue Caruthers led the Falcon offense with 15 points while Betsy VanDeusen netted 10.

Stacey Green grabbed 15 rebounds to lead Farmington in that category.

Franklin was led by Judy (Continued on page 2B)

FHS kickers tie Churchill

Farmington's soccer team scored on a 60-yard shot late in the second half to enable the Falcons to tie Livonia Churchill, 1-1, Tuesday in a game at Churchill.

Churchill's Jim Scheuer scored in the first minute of the second half, poking in a shot from a scramble in front of the Farmington net. Falcon goalie Jack McIntosh had his arms on the ball, but it squirted away and Scheuer put it in the net.

Thirteen minutes later Farmington senior defenseman Roger Becker took a pass from Pat Rapin and sent a drive that sailed over Churchill's goalie Greg Wendecker's outstretched hands for the tying score.

The tie left the Falcons with a 5-0-2 record. The team is part of the North Suburban Soccer League (NSSL) West Division. Other teams in the division include Churchill, Livonia Franklin, Livonia Stevenson, Livonia Bentley, Ann Arbor Huron, Ann Arbor Pioneer, and Ann Arbor Greenhills.

The league's East Division includes Cranbrook, Detroit Country Day, Ferndale, Birmingham Seaholm, Birmingham Groves, Bloomfield Hills Lahser and Bloomfield Hills Andover.

The tie was the second blemish on the otherwise perfect Falcon record. Earlier in the season, Farmington played to a 1-1 tie with Bentley.

The team's defense is its strong point. It has al-

(Continued on page 2B)

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