

Harrison, Churchill to clash for league crown

By C.J. RISAK

Last week it was North Farmington's turn. Next week it will be Farmington's.

But this week it's Farmington Harrison's.

North played — and lost — last week to Redford Union in a game that probably decided the championship of the Northwest Suburban League (NSL). Next week, Farmington may find itself in the same position, when the Falcons tackle Livonia Stevenson for what is expected to be the Inter Lakes League (ILL) crown.

But this week is Harrison's. Coach John Herrington's Hawks are the only unbeaten local team and are currently tied with Livonia Churchill for the lead of the Western Six League (WSL).

But Harrison came very close to fall-

ing from both those positions last Saturday, when it went into triple overtime before nipping Walled Lake Western, 13-7.

The Hawks may have been guilty of looking ahead to this Friday's battle with once-beaten Churchill. If Harrison can get by Churchill, it will have only one league contest remaining, against winless Plymouth Canton.

North scored on its first possession against Redford Union last Friday, but was unable to get anything else going and ended up losing, 8-7. It was the second loss of the season for the Raiders, matching their total for the two previous years.

North will have to be careful this week. It faces Livonia Franklin which, although possessing only a 2-3 record, is always pulling off at least one upset a year. Farmington is coming off a dis-

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appointing 20-0 nonleague loss to Bay City Handy. The Falcons schedule from here on is one of the toughest anywhere — they face Waterford (4-1 on the season) Friday, then play Stevenson (4-1), Southfield (5-0) and North (2-3).

Farmington's loss to Bay City Handy was my first wrong prediction of the season. My record now stands at 22-1. Here's a preview of this weekend's contests.

HARRISON—CHURCHILL

Harrison escaped by the narrowest of margins last Saturday against West-

ern. Ken Kopko's six-yard touchdown run in the third overtime finally decided it.

The Hawks may have been looking past Western to the showdown game this week with Churchill. The contest was played on a rain-soaked field, which hurt both team's offenses.

Still, it was the worst offensive performance of the season for Harrison. Western outgained the Hawks, 166 yards to 129.

"To beat Churchill, we've got to improve our offense," Herrington said. "Churchill is young and very enthusiastic. We're looking for a great championship game down there."

Most of Harrison's problems last week stemmed from bad weather and a good Western defense. The weather may be improved for Friday's Churchill game, but the defense the Hawks

face will be just as tough.

Last week, the Chargers shut out Canton, 20-0. All three of the team's touchdowns were scored in the final 8:40 of the game, and the defense scored two of them. Canton gained only 62 total yards in the contest.

The Churchill offense isn't as strong as Harrison's, at least when the Hawks are on track. Bill Keller is the quarterback. Keller was a one-man offensive show against Canton, completing four of 13 passes for 60 yards and leading the team's rushing game with 42 yards on 10 carries.

He scored the only offensive touchdown of the game on a nine-yard run.

Harrison is going to have to get its ground game going if it is going to win, and the best way to do that is get the passing attack working. Hawk quarter-

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Defense holds, Hawks saved

By TOM BAER

Farmington Harrison coach John Herrington thought he was watching the demise of a pretty good football team last Saturday afternoon.

Walled Lake Western had driven to the Harrison half-yard line on its first play of the second overtime. Western had three more chances to move the ball a few more inches for the game-winning touchdown.

Had that happened, Western would have ruined Harrison's unbeaten season, its bid for the Western Six League football crown and a possible berth in the state Class A post-season playoffs.

But those goals still can be reached thanks to a fired-up Harrison defense, which somehow held Western on the next three downs.

In the next overtime, tailback Ken Kopko, using good blocks by guard Jayme May and upback Jim Miller, scored on a six-yard blast to give Harrison a 13-7 victory in the WSL contest.

The victory put Harrison at 5-0 overall and 3-0 in the conference. The Hawks travel to Livonia Churchill next Friday night for an important WSL game. The winner probably will own the league title.

"We're looking for a great championship game down there," said Herrington, whose 1978 club finished second to Churchill. "To beat Churchill we've got to improve our offense."

Harrison's offense has been sputtering. Western outrushed the Hawks, 140 yards to 117. The steady rain held down the passing, but Western held the edge, 26 yards to 12.

BUT HERRINGTON is proud of his defense — especially after that goal line stand last Saturday.

"Our greatest moment came after Western took it to the half-yard line on first down," he said. "Had they scored, they would have won."

"But we held them for three plays on the half-yard line. Our kids showed me a lot of moxie. No one individual showed up as the leader on the films. We just jammed them up in the middle — and we held them."

Western's defense, led by linebackers Randy Shell and Mike Xenos and tackle Scott Parrish, also impressed Herrington.

"Western's defense was geared to the type of day," he said. "They used a 6-2 defense, which puts 11 men within five yards of the line of scrimmage. We were hoping to throw the ball a lot, but the weather stopped us."

Kopko, a 170-pound junior who holds two league sprint records, has been the Hawks' main scoring threat this season. Kopko scored four touchdowns in Harrison's last game against Waterford Mott.

He scored Harrison's first touchdown

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Ken Kopko (40) maneuvers through a pack of Western Warriors last Saturday. Kopko scored two touchdowns to help Harrison win. (Staff photos by Randall Borst).

Farmington runners take 8th at county

John Murphy finished eighth to lead Farmington High's efforts in the All Oakland County Cross Country Championships last Saturday at the Highland Lakes campus of Oakland Community College.

Farmington, led by Murphy's 15:30.2 clocking, scored 214 points and finished eighth in the 27-school field. Farmington's next four finishers: Bill Atkinson (37th in 16:34), Eric Leidlein (50th, 16:49), Tom Felton (58th, 16:54) and Steve Medonis (61st, 16:59).



Harrison's Brian Anderson

Farmington Harrison finished 15th with 426 points, and North Farmington landed 22nd with 483.

Harrison's top five runners were Brad Senko (44th, 16:41.4), Mark Contardi (53rd, 17:00.6), Clay Dillon (118th, 17:41.5), Brian Anderson (128th, 17:49.7) and Ray Kamoo (173rd, 19:21.8). North's first five: Rich Fruitman (69th, 17:05), George Pomi (82nd, 17:18), Gregg Rapp (107th, 17:36), Doug McEwen (109th, 17:37), Dave Hooper (110th, 17:38).

Birmingham Brother Rice won the meet with 97 team points. Bloomfield Hills Lahar was second with 131 and Royal Oak Kimball was third with 158.

Tim Cannon, a junior at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, won the individual race for boys with a time of 15:24.0. Matt Stack of Holly was second in 15:28.8, and Steve Orlando of Kimball finished third in 15:38.0.

In the girls' meet, held concurrently with the boys', defending state champion Rochester High and Milford finished in a tie for first place with 59 points each. Milford won the title because its sixth runner was 5:14, while Rochester's landed 5:4th.

Sue Paquette of Hazel Park won the three-mile race, recording a time of 18:04.1. Almee Landry of Rochester was second in 18:25.5, and Judy Yuhn of Walled Lake Western took third in 18:34.1.

ALL-GIRL Farmington Our Lady of Mercy passed up the Oakland County Championships in favor of the Lancer Invitational at Metro Beach near Mount Clemens.

Mercy finished second in the 12-team field with 71 points, six more than first-place Royal Oak Shrine. Chippewa Valley was third with 69 points.

Mercy's Curran Sullivan finished 10th in the individual race with a time of 20:02, and teammate Rocky Brown came in 11th place with a 20:29 clocking. Then came Julie Oik (12th, 21:22), Cathy McDonough (14th, 21:27) and Amy Brown (24th, 22:18).

Maria Mitchell of Shrine won the race with a time of 19:32.

NF golfers finish 16th

North Farmington's Phil Rusinowski shot a 10-over-par 82 to help his team finish 16th with an 18-hole, four-man total of 340 in the Oakland County high school golf championship last Monday at Pontiac Country Club.

Ken Smith fired an 83 for North Farmington, while teammates Shad Ewart and Rick McIntosh shot 87 and 88, respectively.

Farmington Harrison finished 18th with 342 strokes as Dave Hawthorne shot a seven-under 72. Other Harrison scores: Ted Kallgren (83), Kurt Parry (85) and Mike Sherman (95). Farmington High accumulated 351. John Kerr led the Falcons with an 82 followed by Bill Lehman (83), John Regan (87)

and Jim Lockhart (99).

Waterford Township topped the 38-school field with 314 strokes. Walled Lake Central was second at 318, and defending champion West Bloomfield took third with 323. Royal Oak Kimball, Bloomfield Hills Andover, Birmingham Groves and Madison Heights Bishop Foley tied for fourth place at 325.

Waterford's Marty Auch and Birmingham Groves' Mike Green tied for medalist honors at 74 after the 18-hole competition. Auch won the sudden-death playoff with a par five on the first hole. Kimball's Bill Walker was next with a 75, Kettering's Bob Gibson had a 76 and Central's Rick Saries a 77.

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