

Franklin upsets North gridders

The one thing North Farmington football coach Ron Holland had to fear about last Saturday's game with Livonia Franklin was an emotional letdown by his team.

Unfortunately for Holland and the Raiders, his fear became fact, as Franklin scored a fourth-quarter touchdown and added the key two-point conversion to upset North, 8-7.

"It was a bummer," Holland said. "I think there was a (emotional) letdown. We didn't hit anybody, and didn't block well."

The Raiders were coming off an 8-7 loss to Redford Union, a game which decided the Northwest Suburban League (NSL) championship.

But Franklin has a history of coming up with some key upsets every season, whether the Patriots are in the league race or not.

In its first game of the season, Franklin nipped Plymouth Salem, the only game Salem has not all season.

The only scoring threat of the first half was a 27-yard field goal attempt by North's Rich Nutter, which was wide.

North did score the game's first touchdown, as quarterback Doug Schulte sneaked across from the one-yard line.

Nutter's extra point made it 7-0, North.

But Franklin put together the winning drive in the last quarter, thanks to some mistakes by the Raiders.

THE PATRIOTS were backed up on their own one-yard line on a fourth down situation. They punted, but North was caught roughing the kicker and Franklin was awarded a first down.

Moments later, Franklin, running a wishbone offense, broke off a 50-yard run on an off tackle play. It was the longest gain of the day by either team on the muddy, sloppy field.

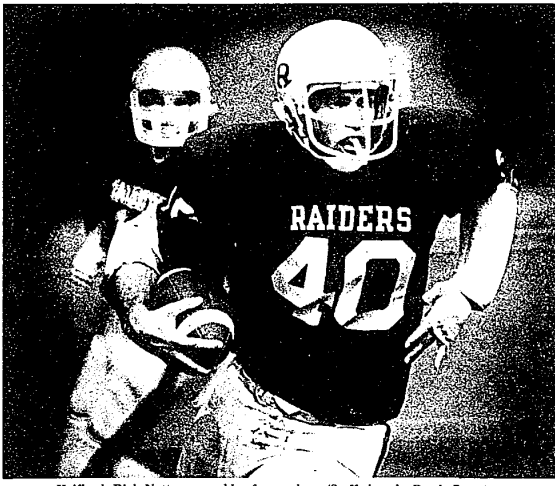
Franklin continued its drive and, with 7:12 remaining in the game, Ron Gunter circled left end and scored on an 11-yard run. Jon McCarthy passed to Ron Lehman for the two-point conversion and the margin of victory.

It was the second loss in a row for North. It was also the second straight game that the Raiders were forced to play without first string quarterback Greg Goldstein, who fractured a thumb passing against Redford Thurston.

Holland was not certain when Goldstein would return to the lineup, but hoped he would be back to face rival Farmington Harrison on Oct. 27 in the Pontiac Silverdome.

Neither team could get much going on offense on Franklin's muddy field. North was limited to only 91 total yards, 61 on the ground. Franklin's rushing statistics were about the same, with 50 of its yards coming on the one key off-tackle run.

North, now 3-3 on the season and 2-2 in the NSL, will play its final league game Saturday at home against Westland John Glenn at 2 p.m.



Halfback Rich Nutter scrambles for yardage. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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Boxer grabs title

By C.J. RISAK

Garry Martin's amateur boxing career continues to blossom.

Martin, a Farmington resident, successfully defended his Louisiana State Fair boxing championship by defeating Jeff Clemon of Ruston, La., in the finals of the featherweight division last weekend.

"I had to ride my bicycle all three rounds against him (Clemon)," Martin said. "He was big and strong."

"I was one of the smallest featherweights in the tournament, so I had to do a lot of tricks. They (the crowd) were calling me 'the racoon'."

The victory was particularly satisfying for Martin after a bitter loss in the Ohio State Fair competition, a tournament he felt he had won but instead was eliminated from by some questionable judging decisions.

"It was impossible scoring," Martin said of the Ohio State Fair. "I went into this (Louisiana) tournament with the feeling that I can't get touched. My coach (Glenn Wilson) told me to relax, sit and not be hit and don't worry about being ripped off."

The scoring was done in a different method at the Louisiana fair with judges holding up scorecards at the end of each round to show who had won the round.

"There was no favoritism here," Martin said of the Louisiana fair.



GARRY MARTIN

MARTIN FOUGHT three bouts in all, defeating Willie Brown of Ft. Hood, Texas, who fights for the Army, in the semifinals.

In all three bouts, Martin's strategy was the same: dance away from his opponent and confuse them. His unique style of boxing either way, right or left-handed (southpaw) was one of his best weapons.

His record stands at 19-4, and he plans to fight in a show in Toronto Oct. 27 and then to compete in a tournament in Indianapolis over Thanksgiving. Future plans include the AAU and Golden Gloves tournaments and, hopefully, the Olympic trials.

The 20-year-old fighter isn't worried about these goals. "I know I can win them (Golden Gloves and AAU tournaments)," he predicts.

He is now rated ninth in his class nationally.

Harrison drops to B

Declining enrollment at Farmington Harrison High School has resulted in the school dropping from Class A status to Class B, effective Jan. 1, 1980.

The change will not affect Harrison's Western Six League (WSL) position and the upcoming boys' basketball season schedule will remain the same. But Harrison will participate in the state class B district basketball tournament in March.

The drop to Class B is expected to remain in effect through 1980-81, since class size at Harrison is expected to drop further next year. Harrison will still participate in the WSL in football next season and city-rivals Farmington and North Farmington will remain on the football schedule.

But other non-league opponents, like Birmingham Groves and Plymouth Salem, may decide to drop Harrison, since the class A schools will not get as many computer points toward a possible state playoff berth by playing a class B school.

At present, enrollment at Harrison is 1,011 for grades 10 through 12. For a school with grades nine through 12, the Class A cutoff is 1,363. In percentages, Harrison falls about 15 students short of the cutoff point.

Ninth graders are to attend Harrison next year, but enrollment will still be well below the 1,363 Class A limit, according to Harrison assistant principal Jack Buller.

"Next year, we'll be even further down," Buller said. "We'll only have about 1200 students or so, including ninth graders."

The decline in enrollment comes even though the Farmington School Board has school boundary lines redrawn last spring so that Farmington High School students would instead attend Harrison.

There will be several consequences for Harrison's sports teams with the drop to class B. The Hawk football squad, now 5-1 on the season, has little chance to make the state Class A football playoffs this year. But, even with the one loss on its record, it would be a virtual shoe-in in the class B playoffs.

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