

Thursday, August 28, 1988

(F10)

Harrison gridders on schedule

Herrington pleased with club



Reggie Upshaw is one of the leading Harrison football returnees. He is a deep threat as a wide receiver. (Staff photo by Randy Bors))

By SCOTT ADLER

Farmington Harrison football coach John Herrington is optimistic about the upcoming season despite having only three returning starters (one offensive and two defensive) from last year's second-place finisher in the Western Six League.

This year's team is very small and young, not to mention inexperienced. But Herrington remains optimistic. "We're young and inexperienced," said Herrington, "but we're coming along. We do lack some size up front (on the line) but we're quick and have some good blockers."

Herrington's only returning starter on the offense is a good one. Tailback Ken Kopko, 6-foot 190-pounder who rushed for 880 yards last year is back to help the Hawks in their bid for the Western Six title.

"Ken is a good blocker and has good foot speed," said Herrington. "This year we've got a lot of good running backs, and we're going to try and establish a good running game." Junior Bill Miller, 5-10, 160, is one of those running backs that Herrington mentioned along with another junior, Steve Sweeney, 5-10, 160, and senior, Steve Perry, 5-8, 145.

"ALL OF THESE guys are good blockers," said Herrington. "All of them are fast and good players."

Junior Bob Wood and Jim Macielak, a 6-0, 160-pound senior, are vying for the quarterback position. Wood, who played on the junior varsity last year, has a strong arm, while Macielak, a varsity reserve last season, is a better runner and has good ball control.

The Harrison offensive line will be a small one, but according to Herrington, a quick and good blocking one also. "I think our offensive line won't hurt

us," said Herrington. "They are quick and good blockers. I think that just about everyone that we play will be bigger than us and our quickness can offset their size."

The Hawks offensive line consists of senior John Pesci, 5-10, 160, center; senior Chris Mistrocich, 5-8, 150, right guard; junior Dan Bowen, 5-8, 148, left guard; and tackles Rich Koucoujian, 5-9, 155, and Eric Wemyss, 6-0, 185.

Split end Reggie Upshaw, 6-2, 185, and Steve Waldron, 5-10, 185, at tight end complete the offense for the Hawks.

On the defensive side of the scrimmage line, Harrison packs a small but potent punch.

"I think with our defensive line and our very good linebackers, we will have a very hard hitting team," said Herrington. "Our defense also knows the game and is smart."

THE HEART of the Harrison defense will be its experienced linebackers, Bruce Yeager, 6-0, 180, and John Pacey, 5-10, 160. Both are seniors.

The defensive line is small but quick, Herrington says. Don Gully, a 5-9, 145 noseguard, and tackles Wemyss and Bob Kassab, 6-foot, 195, make up the defensive line along with Waldron.

The Hawks defensive backfield will be hard-hitting also. Miller will be the monster man (free safety) while Perry and Sweeney are the cornerbacks. Jim Machelik is the safety.

"We're going to try and mix it up," said Herrington of his team's offense. "We'll use a power I formation and the Oklahoma defense."

"Basically, we're a running team, but we'll try to put the ball up too." Herrington foresees Livonia Churchill and Walled Lake Western to be the top contenders for the Western Six championship along with the Hawks.

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Dan Kehagais and Chip Hennessy (middle) team up during a pre-season contact drill against teammate Dave Blackmer (far right). (Staff photo by Randy Bors)

Hills tankers pace Michigan Stingrays

Colleen Carey and Scott Stinson, both of Farmington Hills, were two of five swimmers who represented Michigan in the annual Amateur Athletic Union Zone C Swimming Championships Aug. 15-17 in Lincoln, Neb.

Other members of the Michigan team were Scott Christie, 13, of Livonia, Kristyn Albrant, 17, of

Southfield and Richard Orr, 11, of Detroit.

Carey, 13, placed first in the 100 meter breaststroke with a time of 1:20.99. She also took a third in the 200 breaststroke (2:56.6).

Stinson, 12, placed seventh in the 400 freestyle (4:57.7) and eighth in the 200 freestyle (2:20.74) and 50 breaststroke (39.17).

Falcon gridders improved

Farmington faces tough road

By SCOTT ADLER

The Farmington Falcon football team had better relax now, because when the season starts, the party's over.

Hal Beardsley's Falcons were lounging around in the school pool after a strenuous double session workout just before a pizza party in the cafeteria while Beardsley spoke of the upcoming season:

"We have got a tough schedule," the coach said. "Two teams in our league (Waterford and Livonia Stevenson) and all our non-conference games — we don't have a breather there. It's going to be tough."

Inter-Lakes League favorite Waterford and perennial power Stevenson will dwarf the small Farmington team. With tough non-conference teams such as Pontiac Northern and Brighton, the Falcons will definitely have their hands full.

"We've got 13 returning lettermen," said Beardsley, "and only three or four of them played considerably last season. We're young and we're small. We'll be the smallest team in the league."

The Falcon offensive backfield is an inexperienced one with the exception of Mark Sardo, a 5-foot-9, 165-pound halfback who played quarterback part-time on last year's 2-7 ball club. Sardo will also be one of the defensive backs.

THE QUARTERBACK spot is up in the air as of now. The two players vying for that position are senior Steve Downey and junior Jamie Antishen. Both have strong arms and both are inexperienced. Downey, 5-9, 145, was a varsity reserve last year who didn't see much action, while Antishen, 5-10, 155, was the starting junior varsity signal caller a year ago.

Other people up for the running back position are Shannon Callett, 5-10, 170; Tom O'Malley, 5-10, 160; Joe Hamilton, 5-2, 140; and Greg Koinis, 5-2, 145. Koinis is also battling for a spot in the defensive backfield along with Downey.

The offensive line is small and quick, according to Beardsley, with three-year varsity players Jim Siner, 5-10, 205 and Jim Whitworth, 5-11, 180. Siner is a Whitworth is a guard.

Seniors Dave Hannah, a (6-0, 185) tackle and Jim Gresehover, a (5-11, 185) center along with junior Mike Miller (5-10, 170) make up the offensive line.

"We're going to try and mix it up," said Beardsley. "We hope to throw the ball more this year, that's why I moved Sardo to running back. He's a better runner and both our quarterbacks have good arms."

Beardsley says his team will run off of multiple sets, just as they have the last 11 years of his reign.

DEFENSIVELY, the Falcons look small but scrappy.

On the line, returning senior Rob Krist, a 6-0, 205-pound endback is heading into his third year on the varsity. Three juniors, Paul Kobel, 6-4, 185; Dave Garon, 6-1, 195, and Paul Hickey, 6-3, 184, complete the defensive line. Whitworth and Brian Funn will battle it out for the noseguard position.

The players in contention for the linebacker spots include Siner and Miller or Tim Cizio, a 6-0, 185-pound junior.

"We need a lot of work," said Beardsley. "We have had two down years in a row and this year the kids spirits are good. We have to hang in there and see what happens."

"We have been shifting kids around to our strengths. So far, it looks like it's been working, but we'll have to wait and see."

Who knows? Perhaps if everything goes their way, the Farmington Falcons might have a surprise party.

Farmington's 1988 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SEPT. — 6, At Farmington Harrison; 13, West Bloomfield 19, At Livonia Stevenson (7:30 p.m.); 22, Walled Lake Central
OCT. — 4, At Lakeland; 11, Pontiac Northern; 18, Waterford, 21, Brighton
NOV. 1, At North Farmington. — All games start at 2 p.m. unless otherwise noted



Farmington players go through calisthenics during a pre-season workout in preparation of the coming football season. The Falcons are small, but return 13 starters from a year ago. (Staff photo by Randy Bors)

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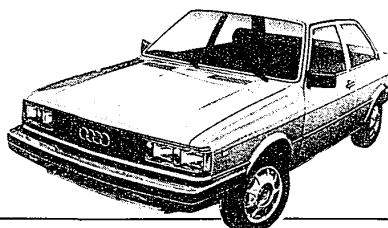


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