

Unbeatens to clash in semifinal

Okemos next for Hawks

By TOM BAER

Farmington Harrison cut down Class B grid giant last Saturday that thrilling 7-6 win over defending champion Jackson Lumen Christi in the state playoff quarterfinal at Riverview High.

But another prep football titan — unbeaten Okemos High — looms ahead in

'I think Harrison is one of the best-coached teams in the state. I'm impressed with the job John and his staff have done with those kids. And I'm impressed with the athletes he has to work with. They know how to win.'

— Pete Schmidt
Okemos coach

Harrison's path to the Class B finals Nov. 29 is the Pontiac Silverdome.

Harrison and Okemos will put their 10-0 records on the line Saturday Nov. 15, in the state semifinal game at Brighton High School. Game time is 1:30 p.m.

"We're thrilled to have a chance," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "We win this one and we're on the

(Silverdome) carpet. That's what we're looking for."

Okemos, the champion of the suburban-Lansing Capitol Circuit, has a 20-game winning streak going under Pete Schmidt, in his eighth season as head coach. Like Harrison, Okemos won a quarterfinal thriller last Saturday, beating Flint Beecher, 17-16, on sophomore Mark Abraham's 22-yard field goal with 1:33 left.

Okemos ended its regular season with a 14-7 win over Escanaba, last year's Class A runner up. It was the only loss of the season for the Upper Peninsula squad.

Okemos relies on its stingy defense, which has given up an average of just five points a game, according to Schmidt. The team's offense has been providing a pre-playoff average of 23 points a game.

THREE KEY offensive players are senior quarterback Dave Valkanoff (6-foot-3, 170 pounds), flanker Abraham (5-10, 160) and junior tailback John Scarlett (6-0, 197).

An excellent passer, Valkanoff has thrown for 742 yards and 10 touchdowns during the regular season. Scarlett, who rushed for more than 100 yards against Beecher, has amassed more than 1,200 yards and scored 12 touchdowns this season.

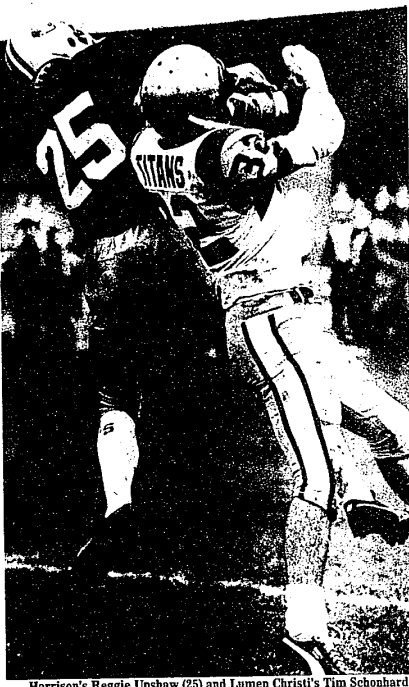
"We have to stop that tailback (Scarlett) and that real quick receiver (Abraham)," Herrington said. "And it looks like Okemos plays good solid defense. Their players aren't as big as Christ's, but they seem to have the fundamentals down."

Okemos' key offensive linemen are center Jack Hettiger (5-9, 150), tackle Mark Kitmiller (5-10, 175) and guard Matt Federan (5-10, 160). The defense is led by linebackers Dave VanGroder (6-0, 170) and Tom Mackey (5-10, 170) and safety Mike Mertz (6-0, 160), who

has intercepted nine passes this season. "Our line is small and quick — very similar to Harrison's," Schmidt said. "And our defense is a lot like Harrison's. We bend a little. They gain some yards on us. But we don't give up many big plays."

To illustrate his point, Schmidt pointed out that Beecher was the only team to score more than one touchdown on Okemos' defense this season.

(Continued on Page 3B)



Harrison's Reggie Upshaw (25) and Lumen Christi's Tim Schonhard vie for one of Jim Macielek's passes. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)



Coach John Herrington gets the winners' treatment after Harrison's 7-6 victory over Jackson Lumen Christi.

From here to there

It's easy to drive from the Farmington area to Brighton High School, the site of Saturday's state Class B football playoff game between Farmington Harrison and Okemos High.

Take Interstate 96 to Spencer Road — that's about a quarter of a mile west of the U.S. 23 junction

with I-96. Follow Spencer into downtown Brighton, where it becomes Main St. Proceed one block past Seventh St. and turn left into the school parking lot.

Game time is 1:30 p.m. Tickets at \$2 each may be purchased at the gate.

Basketball roundup

Farmington girls roll

Back on Sept. 23, Farmington High's girls' basketball team embarrassed Farmington Harrison, 50-17. Last Tuesday, the two neighborhood rivals played again, and this time Harrison came a lot closer in its 60-44 loss.

Harrison, in fact, posted a 16-11 lead after the opening quarter thanks to the long-range shooting of Lori Winkel, who scored 12 of her 16 points in that eight-minute span.

"It was a home game for Harrison, and their kids were really fired up," said Farmington coach Bob Lekovich, whose team is 8-9 this season. "Mike Hickley (Harrison's first-year coach) has done a nice job with that team. They're really improved."

Farmington rebounded to outscore the Hawks, 20-8, in the second quarter. "We just played better defense," Lekovich said. "We tightened up on Winkel."

Farmington center Stacy Green tossed in a season-high 28 points on 12 field goals and four of its 40 points. She also pulled down 15 rebounds and blocked six shots.

Sue Carruthers scored 13 points for Farmington, and teammates Linda Borchanian and Chris Looser each contributed seven. Sue Ferguson had 15 points for Harrison.

The game marked the return of Farmington's Lisa Borchanian, a high-scoring junior forward, who had missed several weeks of the season because of a knee injury.

In another game, Farmington Our Lady of Mercy advanced in the Catholic League playoffs with a 65-47 win over Dearborn Divine Child Sunday at Calihan Hall in Detroit. Mercy is 17-0 overall.

Kathy Landry, a 5-foot-6 junior guard, scored 19 points for the winners, and teammate Kelly Fortescue had 10 to go with her 13 rebounds. Mercy held a 32-11 lead at intermission.

Mercy was to have played Royal Oak Shrine last Wednesday night in the second round of the playoffs.

Farmington Lutheran High Northwest won its third game in 15 starts this season with a 49-11

showing over Bloomfield Hills Roeper Tuesday. Laura Gehlb scored 14 points, Martha Schmidt had 11 and Donna Roberts 10.

Northwest plays next on Thursday, Nov. 20, in the state Class D district at Southfield Christian.

MERCY 65 — DIVINE CHILD 47

LADY OF MERCY (65) — Denise Balford 4, 0-2; Carolyn Burt 3, 0-4; Mary Ellen Cox 2, 2-4; Suzanne Dietz 5, 0-6; Peg Fitzgerald 1, 0-2; Kelly Fortescue 5, 1-10; Kathy Landry 7, 5-9; Meg Mallon 2, 0-4; Mary McDermott 1, 0-0; Karen Shook 2, 0-4. TOTALS: 19, 12, 29, 65.

DEARBORN DIVINE CHILD (47) — Mary Quinn 2, 2-7; Cheryl Ragan 7, 2-4; Liz Powless 4, 4-4; Andy Price 4, 0-4; Jenny Wilson 5, 0-4; Kathy Kleczka 0, 0-2. TOTALS: 19, 17, 47.

TOTAL FOULS — Mercy 15, Divine Child 14. FOULED OUT: None.

MERCY 13 19 16 17 — 65

DIVINE CHILD 11 16 16 10 — 47

FARMINGTON 60 — HARRISON 44

FARMINGTON HIGH (60) — Chris Looser 2, 3-4; Kelley Wallace 1, 1-4; Sue Bergerson 1, 0-4; Linda Borchanian 3, 1-3; Lisa Borchanian 0, 0-0; Sue Carruthers 4, 1-4; Stacy Green 12, 4-24. TOTALS: 25, 10, 37, 60.

FARMINGTON HARRISON (44) — Sue Solomon 3, 0-6; Amy Wilson 0, 0-2; Sue Ferguson 6, 2-15; Lori Winkel 7, 2-2; Andrea Parry 2, 1-4; Dayle Churchill 1, 0-0. TOTALS: 19, 6-23, 44.

TOTAL FOULS — Farmington 20, Harrison 16. FOULED OUT: None.

FARMINGTON 11 29 19 11 — 60

HARRISON 16 8 10 10 — 44

NORTHWEST 49 — ROEPER 11

LUTHERAN NORTHWEST (49) — Martha Schmidt 2, 7-11; Debbie Latzer 6, 0-1; Debbie Williams 1, 0-1; Donna Roberts 5, 0-0; Laura Gehlb 1, 0-2; Tracy Paken 1, 0-0; Beth Latzer 2, 4-6; Chris Mastaglio 0, 0-0. TOTALS: 19, 11, 22, 49.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS ROEPER (11) — Bower 1, 0-0; Nance 1, 0-2; Yukowski 1, 0-0; Mugians 0, 1-2; Anderson 0, 0-0; Percy 1, 0-0. TOTALS: 2, 1-2, 11.

TOTAL FOULS — Rooper 15, Northwest 6. FOULED OUT: Mugians (HR).

NORTHWEST 12 15 8 14 — 49

ROEPER 0 4 5 2 — 11

Raider swimmers sink

Northville High, with Kim Storm and Allison Farquar each winning two events, defeated North Farmington, 99-69, Tuesday in a non-league swimming meet in North's tank. The loss left the Raiders with a 5-5-1 dual-meet record.

Storm won the 50-yard freestyle (24.6) and the 100 free (55.4), and Farquar won the 200 individual medley (2:17.6) and the 100 breaststroke (1:11.3). Both girls teamed up with Selfridge and Bainbridge to win the 200 medley relay in 1:59.3.

North Farmington's Michele Lister won the 200 free in 2:05.4, and teammate Katy Harden won the 100 butterfly in 1:04.2.

North Farmington swims next on Thursday at Livonia Franklin. The Northwest Suburban League meet has a 7 p.m. start. North will participate in the conference meet Nov. 21-22 at Redford Tunnies High School.

NORTHVILLE 99 — N. FARMINGTON 69

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY — Northville (Selfridge, Farquar, Bainbridge, Storm) 1:59.3, North Farmington, Northville.

200-YARD FREESTYLE — Michele Lister (NF) 2:05.4, Selites (N), Duvoan (N).

200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY — Farquar (N) 2:17.6, Kirsten Kusan (NF), Selfridge (N).

50-YARD FREESTYLE — Kim Storm (N) 24.6, Mary Manderfield (NF), Helen Sue Howard (NF).

DIVING — Raycroft (N) 193.50 points, Johnson (N), Suzi Moore (NF).

100-YARD BUTTERFLY — Katy Harden (NF) 1:04.2, Bainbridge (N), Cole (N).

100-YARD FREESTYLE — Kim Storm (N) 55.4, Mary Manderfield (NF), Michele Lister (NF).

400-YARD FREESTYLE — Selites (N) 2:37.4, Duvoan (N), Stacy Greenberg (NF).

100-YARD BACKSTROKE — Selfridge (N) 1:08.8, Katy Harden (NF), Selites (N).

100-YARD BREASTSTROKE — Allison Farquar (N) 1:11.3, Mary Shney (NF), Pelti (N).

400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY — Northville (Grice, Bainbridge, Duvoan, Selites) 1:59.1, North Farmington, Northville.

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