

It's all over! Okemos dumps Hawks



Okemos' Dave Valkanoff bumps Harrison's Reggie Upshaw on a pass attempt. (Staff photo by Randy Bost)

By TOM BAER

An Okemos High football fan was waxing poetic after the big game last Saturday afternoon.

Upshaw and Kopko — fiddle-dee-dee Okemos has 14, Harrison 3

That bit of doggerel pretty much told the story of the Okemos-Farmington Harrison state Class B semifinal football game at Brighton High School's Bulldog Field.

Okemos, riding a 21-game winning streak, contained Harrison standouts Reggie Upshaw and Ken Kopko well enough to post a 14-3 victory. Coach Pete Schmidt's Chiefs now advance to the Class B state finals Nov. 29 in the Pontiac Silverdome.

Harrison closed out one of its best seasons ever with a 10-1 record under coach John Herrington.

Actually, Upshaw, a major college prospect, had a pretty good day from his split end position, making a couple of spectacular catches and finishing with 101 yards in five completions.

But the 6-foot-2, 176-pound senior didn't get the ball often enough and was unable to cross the Chiefs' goal line — a problem shared by senior tailback Kopko, who gained just 62 yards in 17 carries.

Okemos outstruck Harrison, 126 yards to 80, but the Hawks held an edge in total yards, 217 to 183, according to Harrison's statisticians.

"OKEMOS DESERVED TO WIN," Herrington said after the game. "They dominated the whole game. We sure couldn't run against them. They stopped our running game. And then we got behind. And our passing game wasn't working."

Schmidt praised his defensive line for their efforts in containing Kopko. "We just told the front seven that they'd have to handle Kopko," he said. "And they did."

"When your opponent's running game isn't going, you can lay back and concentrate on playing some good pass defense. That's just what we did."



Coach John Herrington: "Okemos deserved to win. They dominated the game. We sure couldn't run against them."

The 6-foot, 190-pound junior tailback carried the ball 32 times for 106 yards and a one-yard touchdown in the first quarter.

The touchdown drive covered 57 yards in 11 plays and was helped along when quarterback Dave Valkanoff hit flanker Mark Abraham with a pass good for a 24-yard gain to the Harrison 28-yard line.

Okemos needed and got a big break — from Upshaw, of all people — to score its second TD on a 28-yard pass play from Valkanoff to Abraham in the third quarter.

Okemos drove into Harrison territory, but the drive stalled. Upshaw fumbled Okemos' punt around the Chief 25. Jack Hettiger fell on the ball to give the Chiefs another chance. And this time they didn't blow it.

ABRAHAM, A talented sophomore, made good on both point-after-touchdowns. Scarlett, Kopko's opposite number on the Chiefs' roster, had a busy Harrison made the scoreboard on a

33-yard field goal by sophomore Dave Blackmer in the second quarter.

Herrington opted for the field goal when the drive stalled out at the Chief 15. On the play before the field goal, Upshaw earned some cheers by leaping high to make a sensational catch — but out of the end zone.

Harrison wasted several other scoring chances. At the end of the first quarter, Harrison had a third and three at the Chief seven. Quarterback Jim Macielak fumbled while running a bootleg. He recovered, but a fourth-down pass failed and Okemos took over.

Two sharp-eyed Okemos defenders — safety Eric Old and halfback Joe Balko — came up with key pass interceptions late in the game when Harrison was trying desperately to move the ball.

Balko's interception came on the Okemos' 29 with just 29 seconds left to play.

Harrison won a thrilling 7-6 victory over defending-champion Jackson Lumen in the Class B quarterfinals Nov. 8 to set up the meeting with Okemos. The Chiefs won a thrilling quarterfinal as Abraham booted a 22-yard field goal with 1:35 left to play in the 17-16 victory over Flint Beecher.

Okemos will play the winner of the Muskegon Catholic-Cheasing game in the Class B final at 8 p.m. Nov. 29 under the Dome.

Both schools had earned berths in the 1976 state finals. Harrison made the Class A final, losing to Midland West. Okemos lost to Grand Rapids West Catholic.

OKEMOS 14 — HARRISON 3

OKEMOS	HARRISON
First downs passing	5
First downs rushing	6
First downs penalty	0
Yards rushing	80
Yards passing	127
Passes	9-27-2
Fumbles — No. lost	1-1
Penalties — Yards lost	3-13
Punts — average	4-41.5
OKEMOS	7 0 7 0 14
HARRISON	0 3 0 0 — 3

SCORING PLAYS

OKEMOS — John Scarlett 1 run (Mark Abraham kick)
HARRISON — Dave Blackmer 33 field goal
OKEMOS — Abraham 29 pass from Dave Valkanoff (Abraham kick)

Falcon cagers triumph

Sue Carruthers scored 19 points and Chris Looser added 10 last Thursday to pace Farmington High's 65-50 win over Waterford Township in Inter-Lakes League girls' basketball. Farmington evened its overall record at 9-9 and brought its league mark to 4-6.

Donna Gilewski, a guard, scored 34 points for Waterford, which trailed by 17 points (34-17) at halftime. Stacy Green, Farmington's center, scored 8 points and grabbed 13 rebounds.

Farmington closes out its regular season on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at Plymouth Canton. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

In another recent game, Farmington Our Lady of Mercy moved closer to a Catholic League championship with a 64-57 win over Royal Oak Shrine in a league playoff game.

Shrine, which had beaten Mercy in two previous playoffs, jumped to a 20-8 lead after the first quarter.

"They blitzed us," said Mercy coach Larry Baker. "We went with a man-to-man de-

fense in the first quarter, and it was a dreadful mistake. We pressed and switched to a zone in the second quarter."

Mercy scored 25 points to Shrine's 14 in the second quarter. Mary Ellen Cox led the comeback, scoring 12 of her 13 points in the second quarter. Suzanne Dietz and Kelly Fortescue scored 20 and 14 points, respectively, for the winners.

Mercy plays next in the Catholic League-Detroit Public School League championship game on Tuesday night at the University of Detroit's Cullihan Hall.

Livonia Franklin whipped North Farmington, 66-30, Thursday in the Northwest Suburban League finale for both teams. North has a 2-17 overall record.

Mary Kay McNail, Franklin's 6-foot-3 center, scored 16 points, and guard Julie Wilga added 14. Meg Henrich led North Farmington with 13 points.

Kris Mellema scored 15 points to lead Walled Lake Western past Farmington Harrison, 51-32, in a Western Six League

game. Harrison is 2-15 overall and 1-9 in the conference.

Sue Ferguson scored 10 points for Harrison, which finishes its regular season at home Tuesday with a 7 p.m. game against North Farmington.

MERCY 64 — SHRINE 57

LADY OF MERCY (64) — Denise Barford 2, 1-2, 5; Mary Ellen Cox 14, 1-15; Suzanne Dietz 8, 4-4, 20; Kelly Fortescue 8, 2-2, 14; Kathy Landry 2, 0-6, 10; Karen Sook 1, 0-1, 2. TOTALS: 25, 14-19, 64.
ROYAL OAK SHRINE (57) — Jeanne Konezal 7, 0-4, 14; Michelle Treier 3, 4-4, 10; Michelle Hatcher 4, 7-8, 15; Robin Pataj 5, 0-0, 10; Julie Edsavage 4, 0-0, 8. TOTALS: 33, 15-16, 57.

TOTAL FOULS — Shrine 15, Mercy 13. FOULED OUT: None.

MERCY 8 25 19 12 — 64
SHRINE 20 14 7 16 — 57

FRANKLIN 66 — N. FARMINGTON 30

LIVONIA FRANKLIN (66) — Jill White 2, 0-0, 4; Julie Wilga 7, 0-4, 14; Kim Retwood 2, 0-4, 4; Anna Gilewski 4, 0-1, 8; Mary Kay McNail 8, 4-6, 16; Moe McNibb 2, 0-0, 4; Dawn Bradley 2, 2-4, 6; Garrie Hinchett 2, 2-3, 6; J. Johnson 2, 0-3, 4. TOTALS: 35, 8-17, 66.

NORTH FARMINGTON (30) — Margie Lee 2, 1-2, 5; Cathy Beth 0, 0-0, 0; Sue Berna 3, 0-1, 6; Lisa Kozicki 0, 0-1, 0; Marcia Thompson 1, 0-2, 2; DeAnna Forman 2, 2-4, 6; Amy Mummert 0, 0-2, 0; Meg Henrich 1, 1-3, 13. TOTALS: 15, 4-19, 30.

TOTAL FOULS — North 16, Franklin 16. FOULED OUT: Bradley (LF).

FRANKLIN 14 12 19 21 — 66
N. FARMINGTON 6 8 14 2 — 30

WESTERN 51 — HARRISON 32

WALLED LAKE WESTERN (51) — Tracy Grubb 3, 1-7, 7; Jill Orcutt 0, 0-0, 0; Joyce VanVelsor 2, 2-4, 7; Kris Mellema 5, 2-4, 10; Cindy Hart 2, 0-2, 4; Janet Wilson 4, 1-3, 8; Sue Howell 1, 0-0, 2; Peg Hathaway 1, 1-2, 3; Keena Marsh 0, 0-0, 0. TOTALS: 20, 11-31, 51.

FARMINGTON HARRISON (32) — Julie Solomon 0, 0-0, 0; Amy Hinson 0, 2-2, 2; Sue Ferguson 5, 0-1, 10; Lori Wilard 1, 0-1, 2; Andrea Parry 5, 0-1, 6; Lisa Sabbe 1, 0-0, 2; Dayle Churchill 0, 0-0, 0; Lydia Glyvidis 0, 0-0, 0; Jenny Tompson 0, 0-0, 0; Pam Kouratka 0, 0-0, 0; Ellen Humphrey 0, 0-0, 0. TOTALS: 11, 10-32, 32.

TOTAL FOULS — Western 18, Harrison 14. FOULED OUT: None.

WESTERN 14 10 12 21 — 51
HARRISON 5 6 12 9 — 32

FARMINGTON 65 — WATERFORD 50

FARMINGTON HIGH (65) — Carol Leonard 8, 0-0, 4; Chris Looser 3, 4-16, 10; Kelley Wallace 3, 1-7, 2; Sue Bergerson 2, 0-0, 4; Linda Borchardt 1, 0-0, 2; Cathy Crane 2, 1-3, 5; Sue Carver 0, 0-0, 0; Lisa Borchardt 1, 0-0, 4; Stacy Green 2, 4-7, 8. TOTALS: 35, 15-23, 65.

WATERFORD TOWNSHIP (50) — Donna Gilewski 15, 4-4, 34; Peterson 3, 2-3, 6; Chodanowicz 1, 0-0, 2; Merciere 0, 0-0, 0; IDalia 1, 0-0, 2; Warden 1, 0-0, 2; Robertson 0, 0-0, 0. TOTALS: 21, 11-22, 50.

TOTAL FOULS — Farmington 18, Farmington 13. FOULED OUT: None.

FARMINGTON 13 21 15 16 — 65
WATERFORD 8 9 18 15 — 50

Squads are paired for cage tournament

The high school girls' basketball state tournament, which has become known as December Delirium in recent years, begins with district play this week for the Farmington area schools.

Farmington Our Lady of Mercy, which has a winning tradition under coach Larry Baker, hasn't made it past the regional level since 1977, the year that Mercy won the Class A championship.

But this season, Mercy, which was unbeat as of Friday, looks like it could have a long tournament run. Bakers' Martins open tourney play in the talent-stocked Northville High regional with a 7 p.m. game on Thursday, Nov. 20, against host Northville.

Farmington High plays North Farmington at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday at Northville. The winner of that game will play Inter Lakes League-powerhouse Livonia Stevenson at 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

The Northville district final is set for 7 p.m. Monday.

Farmington Harrison will host a Class B district, beginning Friday, Nov. 21. Other teams include Oak Park, Novi, Clarenceville and touring favorite Livonia Ladywood.

Farmington Lutheran Northwest, a Class C school, will travel to Southfield Christian

for its district. Other entries: Southfield Alex Manoochin, Royal Oak St. Mary and Southfield Christian.

District pairings

CLASS A — AT NORTHVILLE

THURSDAY (NOV. 20) — Farmington Our Lady of Mercy vs. Northville High (A), 7 p.m.; Farmington High vs. North Farmington (B), 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY (NOV. 22) — Winner of Game A vs. Walled Lake Western, 7 p.m.; Winner of Game B vs. Livonia Stevenson, 8:30 p.m.

MONDAY (NOV. 24) — District Final, 7 p.m. Winner to Birmingham Groves regional to play winner of Groves district.

CLASS B — AT HARRISON

FRIDAY (NOV. 21) — Oak Park vs. Novi High (A), 7 p.m.; Clarenceville High vs. Farmington Alex (B), 8:30 p.m.

MONDAY (NOV. 24) — Winner of Game A vs. South Lyon, 7 p.m.; Winner of Game B vs. Livonia Ladywood, 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY (NOV. 25) — District Final, 7 p.m. Winner to Jackson Lumen Christi regional.

CLASS C — AT SPD, CHRISTIAN

FRIDAY (NOV. 21) — Farmington Lutheran Northwest vs. Southfield Alex Manoochin (A), 8:30 p.m.; Royal Oak St. Mary vs. Southfield Christian (B), 8 p.m.

SATURDAY (NOV. 22) — District Final, 7 p.m. Winner to Peck High School regional to play winner of the Flint Holy Trinity regional.

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