

Few surprises in first football weekend

"Outside of the unbearable heat on Saturday afternoon and a sticky situation in Troy, the 1982 high school football season came off pretty much as expected."

Teams playing outside Saturday afternoon had to contend with blistering temperatures in addition to their foes. However, at least those teams had the opportunity to play, and that's more than can be said for Troy High and Troy Athens football players.

Teachers in the Troy School District are on strike, and, as of Friday, the teacher's union — the Troy Teacher's Association — would not allow its faculty-member coaches to coach.

Since it was the first week of the season, I'm reluctant to call the results of some games upsets. What might appear as an upset is merely a case of the better team winning. You just favored a team because of its tradition rather than its present status.

AND, IN the first week of the season, it's often difficult to make the distinction until enough games have been played in the season for a team to establish itself.

Although football fans in Rochester may feel differently, I'd call the Falcons' 21-14 victory over Avondale at the Silverdome an upset. All right, low about mild upset.

That was one of two games I missed in last week's picks (10 of 12). The other miss was picking West Bloomfield over Farmington Harrison. That one was not an upset by any stretch of the imagination. It was a toss up, and Harrison, the defending state champion in Class B, came out on top, 13-8.

Although Harrison lost all but one

starter from last year's team, coach John Herrington put it best when he said about his underclassmen, "These juniors got to play against one of the finest teams in the state last year every day in practice."

On to this week's games:

Southfield-Lathrup at Oak Park (Thursday, 4 p.m.) The Chargers gave defending Southeastern Michigan Association champion Royal Oak Kimball all it wanted last week. Kimball won the game, 15-13, but Lathrup proved it is a team not to be taken lightly. Oak Park was humbled by Dearborn Heights Robichaud, 34-6, in its season opener. More of the same will follow.

PICK: LATHRUP.

Rochester Adams at Centerline (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) Opportunity knocked and the Highlanders answered last Saturday as Adams made the most of Lake Orion's miscues and scored 20 points in the third quarter en route to a 20-6 win. Adams fullback Ron Schmon is one of the more rugged in the area and the defense, led by Schmon at linebacker and Terry Allen in the secondary, is a strong one. Centerline lost to L'Anse au Lac, 11-8, in two overtimes last week.

PICK: ADAMS.

Lake Orion at Rochester (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) How 'bout them Falcons! Rochester built a 21-0 lead over a fine Avondale team Saturday, and held on to secure the victory. Robert Hess was brilliant in his debut as a football receiver. Whenever he and quarterback Dean Ulrich hook up, it's trouble for the defense. Lake Orion was a 20-6



Jim Hughes

loser to Adams, but that game was closer than the score indicates. The Dragons have an outstanding linebacker/fullback in Mike Agro, and a sharp passer in quarterback John Vackaro. Lake Orion also has a talented crop of receivers. The Falcons' secondary will be tested.

PICK: ROCHESTER.

Clawson at Troy Athens (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) Clawson hammered Berkley, 27-12, in its opener while Athens sat idle thanks to the teacher strike and union's decision to keep the coaches off the field. Clawson lost eight starters from a team that tied for the Macomb-Oakland league title last year, but the Trojans are picked to win it this year. Athens is hungry, and will take out their frustrations on the Trojans.

PICK: ATHENS.

Ferdale at Troy (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) This is a tough one. Ferdale gave MSAA champ Royal Oak Dondoro a battle Friday in a 20-14 loss. Ferdale also is a team that could be a factor in the SMA this season. Troy was victimized by pre-season injuries, so the layoff from the strike could work in the Colts' favor. I'll stick my neck out on this one.

PICK: TROY.

Avondale at Madison (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) If you thought the loss of Derek Woodmore and company would drastically affect Avondale's running game, think again. Marcus Thompson and Charles Houser are fine running backs who will rack up the yardage this year. The Rhinos have a fantastic receiver in Hank Woodmore. Tim Morton will improve at quarterback. He did a fine job rallying the team against Rochester. Madison, a 14-0 loser to Ulster in the opener, will take its lumps.

PICK: AVONDALE.

West Bloomfield at Birmingham Groves (Friday, 8 p.m.) Both teams lost by a touchdown in their openers — the Lakers lost, 13-8 to Farmington Harrison while the Falcons fell to a tough Eisenhower team, 27-20. West Bloomfield's loss, however, was to one of the best teams in the state. Groves is strong, but it doesn't get a break from the schedule.

PICK: WEST BLOOMFIELD.

Birmingham Seaholm at Royal Oak Kimball (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) Seaholm gave Lahser all it could handle while Kimball survived a scare from Southfield-Lathrup. Kimball returns some top players along the line, on a team that won the SMA title last year and bowed out of the state playoffs to state finalist Fraser. I sense an upset, but I'll trust my better judgment and go with the favorite.

PICK: KIMBALL.

Clarkston at Bloomfield Hills Lahser (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) Both teams are coming off season-opening wins. Clarkston beat Swartz Creek, 27-19, while Lahser nipped Seaholm by one point.

Clarkston has too many holes to fill this season to be ready for Lahser by the second game of the season.

PICK: LAHSE.

Hazel Park at Bloomfield Hills Andover (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) The Barons were gunned down by a potent Edsel Ford football team last weekend, 47-6. Hazel Park, though not the caliber of Edsel Ford, is a team to be reckoned with in the Southeastern Michigan Association. Hazel Park edged Warren Fitzgerald, 19-16 in the opener, and should make it two straight over Andover.

PICK: HAZEL PARK.

Cranbrook at Detroit Country Day (Friday, 4:30 p.m.) The Yellow Jackets opened the season with a convincing victory over Orchard Lake St. Mary's while Cranbrook eked out a one-point win over Cleveland University School. With the likes of Hudson, Clark, Adams, Harris and more, Country Day should adopt "Ain't no stopping us now" as its theme song.

PICK: COUNTRY DAY.

Southfield at Berkley (Friday, 4:15 p.m.) Southfield opened the season with a 14-0 win over Farmington last week, while Berkley, 1-8 last year, lost by more than two touchdowns to Clawson. The Blue Jays have a strong defense and a capable leader at quarterback in Glen Williams.

PICK: SOUTHFIELD.

Muskegon vs Brother Rice at Seaholm (Saturday, 7:30 p.m.) Muskegon brings its Big Red Machine to Birmingham where its head coach, Mark Cieslak, served as an assistant under the dean, Al Fracassa. Muskegon opened with a 16-0 win over East Kent-

wood, while Rice edged a game Dearborn High squad, 17-14, in overtime. Don't let the Dearborn High game mislead you. Rice is much better than that. And Fracassa knows it, and you better believe he reminded his players of that fact. The Warriors play Divine Child the following week, so they've got to beat Muskegon. After all, Brother Rice has not lost two in a row since the 1973 season when it lost its first three games before winning five straight.

PICK: BROTHER RICE.

Farmington at Farmington Harrison (Saturday, 2 p.m.) I should have known better than to go against a John Herrington-coached team as I did last week when I picked West Bloomfield to beat Harrison, even though West Bloomfield is loaded with talent this season. Harrison, although young, came of age last Friday night. Now the Hawks are at home, and won't be gracious when they host Farmington.

PICK: HARRISON.

Walled Lake Central at North Farmington (Saturday, 2 p.m.) Central, which mauled Millford, 34-10 in its opener, returns its entire offensive backfield and fields a line of 200-pounders. North won last year's game, 10-7, and is coming off a 12-0 loss to a strong Plymouth Salem team.

PICK: CENTRAL.

St. Mary's at Detroit dePorres (Sunday, 2 p.m.) The Eagles of St. Mary's open up against two of the best teams in Class C. They lost to Country Day last week, and will have their hands full against dePorres, the Class D state champ last year. Coach Ron Thompson of dePorres keeps cranking out the winning teams.

PICK: DE PORRES.

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