

Monday, October 4, 1982 O&E

Patriots 'Popp' North Farmington



Ken Goss North Farmington's workhorse tailback, collides with Livonia Franklin's Herb Minaro (24) during Saturday's prep football game on the Raiders' field.

By Tom Baer
staff writer

Livonia Franklin, led by quarterback Rich Popp, threw North Farmington for another football loss, 20-0, Saturday in a Northwest Suburban League contest on the Raiders' field.

The stocky (5-foot-10, 198-pound) Popp, who looks like he might be equal at home at tailback or fullback, completed seven of 20 passes for 206 yards and two touchdowns in leading the Patriots to their fourth-straight victory and their second conference win this fall.

"He isn't the quickest, but his head's always in the game," said Franklin coach Armand Vigna of his senior signal caller.

On the first series of the second quarter, Popp guided the Patriots on an 87-yard, eight-play drive which ended with a 39-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Larry Patsch. The clock showed 8:58 left in the half when Rich Wood's point-after kick sailed through the goal posts.

On its last series of the third quarter, the Popp-to-Patsch combination clicked again, this time for a 53-yard scoring play. Patsch, a 5-11, 155-pound junior, fumbled himself all alone on the North 25 when he snagged the pass and dashed unopposed down the sideline for the score. Wood then made good on his second PAT try.

William Hurst, Franklin's 154-pound junior fullback, broke loose for a 27-yard touchdown run with 7:19 left in the game. Popp set up the TD with a gutsy 12-yard completion to tight end Mark Stebbins for a first down at the North 38 on a fourth-down-and-one situation.

BOTH TEAMS muffed scoring opportunities.

Franklin failed to capitalize on a pass interception by linebacker Gary Staub on the North 21. On his first offensive play, Popp threw one of his two

interceptions into the arms of Mark Carrier.

North blew a chance late in the first quarter. After marching from midfield to the Patriot 16, the Raiders were called for an illegal block and then had their quarterback sacked back on the 48.

Franklin rushed for 170 yards to North's 91. North's statistics showed Franklin with those 206 yards passing and the Raiders with 72 on six completions and five interceptions. Ken Goss, North's workhorse tailback, carried the ball 22 times and gained 74 yards. Hurst was Franklin's leading rusher with 59 yards on eight carries. Patsch grabbed four passes for 134 yards.

It was the 20th renewal of the North Farmington-Franklin rivalry, and each team has won 10 games.

Franklin, enjoying its best season since the 1976 Patriots won the inaugural Class A state championship, continues its NSL season at home on Saturday at 2 p.m. Redford Union will provide the opposition.

North, which has a 1-3 overall record and 1-1 conference mark, heads for Westland John Glenn for a 7:30 p.m. game on Friday.

KEN KISH'S 60-yard touchdown pass to John Miller on the very first play of the game highlighted Farmington's 19-8 victory over Walled Lake Western in a Western Lakes Activities Conference-Western Division football showdown Friday night at Walled Lake Central.

"It wasn't quite as easy as it may have looked," said Harrison coach John Herrington, whose Hawks are perfect in four starts this season. "But our kids played great. One key was that we struck early with that great pass on the first play."

The 6-1, 180-pound Miller, who scored another touchdown on a one-yard plunge, carried the ball 24 times

and gained 195 yards. Just a sophomore, Miller also handles the team's punting and holds down a safety spot on the defense.

Senior Dave Blackmer, who holds the state high school place kicking record of 55 yards, added the extra point and made good on two long field goals of 47 and 46 yards.

Harrison rushed for 182 yards to Western's 189. The Hawks passed for 85 yards, completing four of seven passes. Western's "Big Boy" gained 20 yards through the air. Western quarterback Rick Hunter scored a touchdown on a 37-yard run and gained 71 yards on 12 carries.

Harrison linebacker Jamie Shaeffer was credited with three solo tackles and seven assists. Tim Smigielki logged six solos and five assists, and Miller had five solos and five assists.

Harrison, now 2-0 in conference play, hosts Plymouth Canton Saturday, Oct. 9, at 2 p.m.

FARMINGTON, PLAYING before a large homecoming crowd Saturday, built up an 11-0 halftime lead, but couldn't hold it against Walled Lake Central.

The Vikings scored a third-quarter touchdown and then added 20 fourth-quarter points to win the Western Lakes Activities Association game, 26-11. The loss was Farmington's fourth in a row this season.

Farmington QB Paul Wenson threw to Jeff O'Malley for a 30-yard touchdown play in the second quarter. Wenson then passed to Mark Green for the two-point conversion. Dan Zang kicked a 31-yard field goal later in the quarter.

Central QB Tom Menard ran six yards for a touchdown and passed three yards to Steve Thibert for another score. Tim Glesner ran 36 and 33 yards for Central's other TDs.

Farmington plays next on Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Plymouth Salem.

Mercy cagers stay perfect

Farmington Our Lady of Mercy coasted to its seventh straight win Thursday as the Marlins defeated Birmingham Marian, 64-38, in the Catholic League opener for both teams.

Mercy (7-0) took a 15-7 first-quarter lead, extended the advantage to 34-16 at the half, and outscored Marian, 16-2 in the third quarter to take a 50-18 lead going into the final period.

"We played some exceptional defense for three quarters," Mercy coach Larry Baker said. "The game plan was to play a pressure defense, and I was delighted with the way we played and took them out of their offense."

Sarah Basford, who scored 24 points for Mercy in the first three quarters, finished with 25. She was seven-for-seven at the free-throw line. Carolyn Burt added 18 points.

Marian's high-scoring Kelly Freehan led the Mustangs with seven points.

"Mary Risowski was on Frechan and she stopped her pretty well," Baker said. "Kelly is one of the finest guards in Oakland County, and Mary just played tremendous defense against her."

Mercy is at Royal Oak Shrine Tuesday while Marian travels to Redford Bishop Borgeas.

FARMINGTON HARRISON needed a 28-point performance by Sue Ferguson to beat Plymouth Canton Thursday night, as the Hawks dumped the Chiefs, 52-43.

Ferguson, who has scored 80 points in the last four games, also pulled down 14 rebounds.

Alice Short added 12 points in a winning effort, and dished off 10 assists.

The win, Harrison's fourth in a row, improves the Hawks' overall record to 6-2, and league mark to 4-2.

Harrison took an 15-10 lead after the first eight minutes, and did not trail at the end of any quarter. The Hawks took the win with a 14-7 advantage in the third quarter.

Tuesday, Harrison will try to make it five straight at Northville.

NORTH FARMINGTON had its four-game winning streak snapped Thursday as Livonia Franklin defeated the Raiders, 45-31.

The Patriots trailed, 9-7 at the end of the first quarter, but outscored the Raiders, 13-8 in the second eight minutes to take a 20-17 lead at the half. Franklin scored 25 points to North's 14 in the second half of play.

Margie Lee led North with eight points and Amy Austin tallied seven.

Alicia Leckta and Carolyn Smith led all scorers and Franklin with 14 points. Tuesday, the Raiders host Dearborn High.

In junior varsity action, North Farmington won its 33rd consecutive game with a 33-31 victory over Franklin.

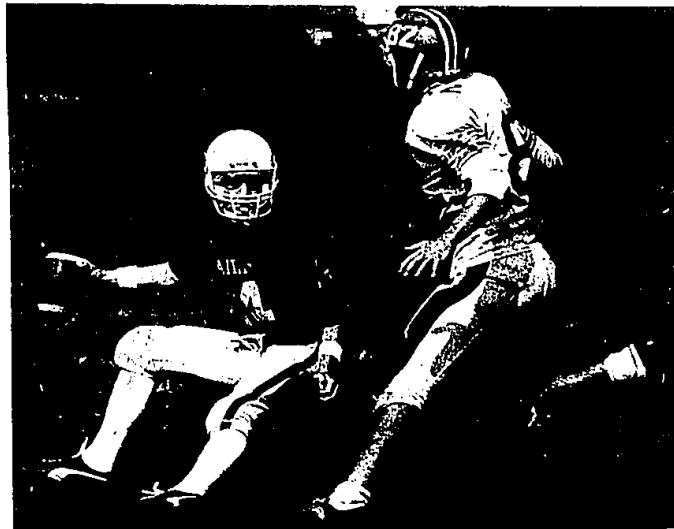
FARMINGTON HIGH, winless in its first eight games, was trounced by Walled Lake Western Thursday, 77-22.

Linda Barbrick led Farmington with five points.

Western's Val Hall, a 6-foot-2 sophomore, led all scorers with 19 points.

"We were totally outclassed," Farmington coach Bruce Brown said. "We can't play with people like this."

Tuesday, Farmington plays at Livonia Bentley.



North quarterback Eric Engle takes a tumble as Franklin's Robert Stebbins closes in for the kill.

Judge Mester rules in favor of MHSAA

By Tom Henderson
staff writer

Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Fred Mester ruled Friday against a Troy city councilman who was suing the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

The suit, initiated by Councilman Peter Taucher on behalf of his son Craig and Lell Sell, both students at Detroit Country Day, claimed that the MHSAA's control of prep athletics in the state was unconstitutional and illegal.

Taucher had claimed that the MHSAA could suggest rules but should not be able to enforce rules regarding the number of games teams can play, how far they can travel to games and the teams' use of transfer students.

Mester spurned those arguments at the end of the preliminary hearing and granted the MHSAA's request to quash the case on its merits without the need of a full trial.

It was the third setback in recent days for opponents of the MHSAA. Ken Morris, a Livonia attorney who was arguing on behalf of his son's rights to play golf immediately for Livonia after transferring from Detroit Catholic Central, had his case dismissed in Wayne County, and a suit by Elsie Frank Catalano of Southfield Christian was dismissed Thursday by Oakland County Circuit Court Judge George LaPlata.

MHSAA RULES prohibit a student from playing sports for one semester after his or her transfer from one school to another. The rule was designed to prohibit parochial schools from raiding the star athletes of public schools.

Ironically, the suits were brought about by students leaving Catholic schools for public schools. Taucher had been joined in his suit by Elsie Frank Catalano and Tony Brattain, both of whom had left Waterford Our Lady of

Lakes for financial reasons and had transferred to the Waterford public school district.

Craig Taucher is a hockey player, Sell and Brattain, football players, and Lomerson, a basketball player.

Under a temporary restraining order issued two weeks ago, the students had been allowed to play their sports. Judge Mester quashed the restraining order Friday, which prohibits the students from playing pending appeal.

Peter Taucher presented an appeal Friday, but wasn't sure if it would be in the Michigan Court of Appeals or in a federal district court.

"THE COURT recognizes that rules (of the MHSAA) often temper the interests of individuals," said Mester, "but the court must hold paramount the general welfare of all students. . . . It does not appear that the plaintiffs have sustained their case. There is no merit to their claim (that local school boards) have unconstitutionally delegated their

authority (to the MHSAA)."

Mester repeatedly stated his finding that athletes are a privilege and not a right and therefore not as protected by the law as they would be if they were a right.

Detroit Country Day was a willing defendant in the suit. The school had been barred by the MHSAA from sending its hockey team to a tournament in Boston. Regarding the MHSAA rules on travel and the limit it places on the number of games in various sports, Mester said:

"The court does not find their (the plaintiffs') arguments persuasive. . . . Regarding the claims of Taucher and the American Civil Liberties Union, which had entered the case, that the MHSAA rules interfered with the rights of parents, Mester said:

"The defendant's rules are not so intrusive into the rights of the family that they constitute a violation of equal protection."

"serve the interests of . . . high school sports."

TAUCHER HAD claimed that the MHSAA transfer rule was arbitrary because it applied primarily to those who play fall sports. Since most transfers are in the summer, and the probationary period is just one semester, those who play fall sports are hurt while those who play spring sports are not, Taucher said.

Mester rejected that argument. "There is no problem. . . in that it applies to all transfer students. The court finds the association's rules neither arbitrary nor capricious."

Mester added that the "plaintiffs failed to prove irreparable injury. Disappointment can hardly be termed irreparable injury. The granting of a preliminary injunction (to continue allowing the involved students to play) would cause greater harm to the association than not granting it causes the defendants."

Mester then granted the request of Edmund Sikorski, the MHSAA's attorney, to dismiss the case on its merits. Mester could have ordered a full trial — there was no sworn testimony in the hearing, just arguments by the various legal counsel involved — but he felt that the MHSAA had proved its case without the necessity of a full trial.

"We will appeal," said a disappointed Taucher after the decision. "I don't know if it will be in the Michigan Court of Appeals or if we'll go to federal court on the constitutional questions."

Chuck Schmidt, the athletic director at Country Day, was clearly disappointed in the outcome. "I was optimistic to some degree that there might have been some change."

Pending appeal, Sell, a sophomore, will be allowed to practice with the Country Day football team but not play in games, Schmidt said. He had been allowed to play varsity games under terms of a restraining order granted two weeks ago.