

Undefeated football teams down to three

By Jim Hughes
staff writer

And then there were three.
Rochester High and Bloomfield Hills Lahser withstood viable challenges from their respective high school football foes Friday night, while Farmington Harrison coasted to a 38-7 victory over Plymouth Canton.

The three winning schools are the lone survivors among the undefeated ranks of teams in the Observer & Eccentric's Oakland County coverage area.

The Falcons from Rochester shut out a strong Clarkson team, 14-0, while Lahser defeated a game and previously undefeated Rochester Adams team, 33-20. Rochester faces Waterford Township Saturday, and the Falcons' undefeated record is not in jeopardy.

Harrison and Lahser, both leaders in their own leagues, will face challenges on the road Friday night. Although both are favorites, they must guard against a letdown.

In last week's picks, I hit on 12 of 17 for a season ratio of 74 percent.

Lahser at Athens (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) An Athens' victory would be a perfect way to celebrate the Red Hawks' homecoming. Athens, 2-2 overall, defeated Southfield-Lathrup Friday night, 12-7, and slowly is coming on as a team not to be taken lightly. Lahser, however, is coming off one of its best showings of the year, and the Knights have visions of a Metro Suburban Activities Association title and an undefeated season. And they have the running backs — including speedy game-breaker Brian Munson — to do it.

PICK: LAHSER.

Harrison at Walled Lake Central (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) Harrison, which sports the longest current winning streak (18) in the state, took advantage of Canton miscues Saturday to post a 38-7 victory, its fifth of the season. Walled Lake Central, on the other hand, was stung by Livonia Stevenson last week, 20-13. Central (3-2) started the season strong, but has lost two of its last three. This will make it three of four. Miller's a killer, and Kish gets his wish.

PICK: HARRISON.

Groves at Adams (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) Both teams are coming off losses — Adams against Lahser, and Groves, a 20-0 loser to Royal Oak Dondoro. Groves (2-3) has lost two straight, but probably has one of the toughest schedules in the area. Adams (4-1) displayed its resiliency against Lahser in the first half as the Highlanders were down, 20-0, only to come back and make it 20-0 at the half. This one could go either way, but Adams has more to gain with a victory.

PICK: ADAMS.

Troy at Kimball (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) The Colts, in a time span of three weeks, went from hot to lukewarm to ice cold. After a 2-0 start, Troy dropped two straight, including last week's 26-14 upset from Hazel Park. Now, the Colts have to play at Royal Oak Kimball (4-1), and the Knights have been getting better each week.

PICK: KIMBALL.

Oxford at Avondale (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) Oxford suffered its first loss of the

Winter coaches needed in Troy

Troy Athens High School is looking for a head varsity girls' gymnastic coach for the 1982-83 season, and Troy High is in need of a girls' synchronized swimming coach.

Pioneer win streak snapped

Oakland University came back from a 2-1 overtime defeat at archrival Michigan State University to tie the 1981 Division I soccer semifinalist Eastern Illinois 1-1 Saturday.

The loss against the Spartans ended a 19-0-1 streak against Michigan opponents which began in 1976. The tie came against Michigan State in 1980.

In the State game, OU tied the game at 1-1 with 25 minutes to play in regulation. Pioneer forward Morris Lu-

year Friday in a 17-7 setback to Cranbrook. The Rhinos (3-2), with QB Tim Morton running the offense and game-breakers Charles Houser and Marcus Thompson in the backfield, will set the stage for a North Oakland Activities Conference showdown against Cranbrook with a win here.

PICK: AVONDALE.

Hazel Park at Southfield (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) Hazel Park, after losing two games in succession, have come on strong in recent outings with a 55-7 win over Berkley and Friday's 26-24 come-from-behind upset victory over Troy. Southfield (2-3) is a 20-0 loser to Kimball Friday, has scored six points total in its two losses. The Blue Jays have blanketed their opponents in all three wins, though. They'll need the defense Friday, since Hazel Park has rolled up 81 points in its last two games.

PICK: HAZEL PARK.

Dondoro at Lathrup (Friday, 8 p.m.) The Chargers (1-4) could easily be 3-2 this year, but they've squandered two fourth-quarter leads in back-to-back games. This week, they face their toughest challenge when they host Royal Oak Dondoro (4-1). The Oaks, after being humbled by Lahser, 27-7, have blanketed Athens and Groves in consecutive weeks.

PICK: DONDERO.

Farmington at Stevenson (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) Livonia Stevenson (2-3) surprised Walled Lake Central last week, 20-13. The Spartans do sport a losing record, but two losses were to undefeated football teams — Plymouth Salem and Livonia Franklin — and both games were close. Farmington (0-5) was a 35-7 loser to Salem last week.

PICK: STEVENSON.

Ferndale at Andover (Friday, 8 p.m.) Ferndale (1-4) is primed for a win after back-to-back losses to league powers Kimball and Seasholm. Andover won its second of the season Friday in a 20-20 struggle over the lowly Bears from Berkley. The winner goes two notches above Berkley.

PICK: FERNDALE.

Country Day at Lutheran East (Friday, 8 p.m.) Lutheran East is 2-1 in the Metro Conference, and 2-3 overall. Friday's 41-13 victory over Hamtramck put Lutheran East in the position to tie Country Day in the league with a win this week. But that would be an upset, and Country Day has designs on the league title. The Yellowjackets (4-1) are coming off a 42-12 victory over Harper Woods.

PICK: COUNTRY DAY.

Cranbrook at Brandon (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) As long as the Cranes are not looking past Brandon to Avondale, this game is theirs. Cranbrook is 4-1 overall after last week's 17-7 win over previously undefeated Oxford. Brandon, a 28-13 loser to Avondale last week, is 3-2 overall.

PICK: CRANBROOK.

Ypsilanti at West Bloomfield (Friday, 7:30 p.m.) Ypsilanti (4-1) handed Catholic Central its only loss of the season in a 3-0 defensive battle. West Bloomfield is 2-3 after it lost its first three games of the year. The Lakers are going to need to pull out all the stops.

Interested and qualified applicants should call Joe Francis, Troy Schools athletic supervisor, at 889-0600.

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grid predictions

PICK: YPSILANTI.

Waterford Township at Rochester (Saturday, 1:30 p.m.) The Falcons have been more and more impressive as the season progresses. Last week's 14-0 victory over Clarkson all but wrapped up the league title. Rochester has averaged nearly 26 points per game on offense and allowed just 10. The Falcons

have allowed just seven points in the last 10 quarters. Township is 0-5 this year and has scored just 22 points while allowing 106. Name the score, Dick.

PICK: ROCHESTER.

St. Mary's at Detroit Servite (Saturday, 1:30 p.m.) St. Mary's is coming off

a 7-0 loss to league leader St. Agatha, while Servite, 0-5, lost to St. Florian last week, 28-7. Two weeks ago, the Eagles dumped St. Florian, 35-0. Need I say more?

PICK: ST. MARY'S.

Garden City at North Farmington (Saturday, 2 p.m.) After Friday's 12-0 loss to Westland John Glenn, North coach Ron Holland said, "We still have four more games left. Mark my words, we will have a winning football season." That's good enough for me. The Raiders are 1-4, while Garden City is 2-3. However, North is the superior team.

PICK: NORTH FARMINGTON.

Brother Rice vs Notre Dame at Groves (Saturday, 8 p.m.) I think I hit the proverbial nail on the head last week in assessing Rice's chances against Catholic Central. The defense allowed just seven points, but the offense was not at all productive. Rice (2-1) was one of the best defenses in the entire Catholic League along with CC, Divine Child and DeLaSalle. Again, if the offense is there, the defense will do what it takes to win. Notre Dame picked up its first win Sunday when the Irish zipped Bishop Borgese, 14-0, the same score Rice had against the Spartans.

PICK: BROTHER RICE.

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