

Miller rambles for 130 as Hawks roll by WB

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

football

Farmington Harrison coaches sat in their office prior to Saturday's season opener against West Bloomfield, reminiscing about the 1981 season opener.

They recalled that it was a hot, muggy Saturday afternoon in September, similar to the conditions they were about to play in. They also recalled how, in 1981, the Lakers prevailed over the Hawks at Harrison, 6-0. They were hoping history would not repeat itself.

Harrison's fears were put to rest three minutes into the game. After the Hawks' defense stopped the Lakers on three plays and Rob Smigielski partially deflected Scott Fegg's punt, Junior John Miller took a handoff and went off tackle for 41 yards and a touchdown.

Defending Class A champion Harrison went on to route West Bloomfield 38-6 for their 24th consecutive victory.

POOR LAKER PUNTING gave Harrison outstanding field position throughout the game. On Harrison's six scoring drives, they got possession of the ball at the Lakers' 41, 29, 37, 29 and 15 yard lines. Only once did Harrison take possession of the football outside Lakers territory and score.

"We don't have a kicking game," said West Bloomfield coach Dominic Livedoti. "We knew we were poor in that area and the wind made it that much tougher. When you play a team as good as they are, you can't give them that kind of field position — 39-6 is about right."

Livedoti said that the difference in the game, the kicking game aside, was John Miller. Miller scored four touchdowns and ran for 130 yards, playing in just three quarters of the game.

"You just can't stop him. We were poor at defensive tackle, he said."

Miller, who gained more than 1,000 yards as a sophomore last year, gave credit to his offensive line.

"MAN, THE HOLES were so big, I couldn't believe it. Anybody could've run through them. Harrison hasn't had a game like this in years. It seems like they are always close," he said.

The absence of Todd Krumm in the Lakers' offense was obvious. The Lakers could muster just 83 yards running with nobody gaining more than 20 yards.

The Lakers lone score came on a 38-yard pass from senior quarterback Steve Sullivan to Matt Kowalczyk. The score came with just 83 seconds left in the first half as Harrison ahead 19-0. The point after was blocked.

If there was a bright spot for the Lakers, it was Sullivan. The 6-foot-3 quarterback connected on eight of 13 passes for approximately 65 yards. He threw one interception late in the game.

For Harrison, Miller scored on runs of 41, 14 and 5 yards in the first half. Of the Hawks' 138 total yards in the first half, Miller ran for 102 of them.

IN THE SECOND half, the Hawks tried the air express. Senior quarterback Scott Ginski, showing signs of first game jitters, was one for six until he connected with Bob Wasczinski on a 31-yard scoring strike. Wasczinski, a senior transfer from Plymouth Canton with 4.5 speed in the 40-yard dash, was open throughout the afternoon. He caught just two passes for 44 yards.

"We did a good job of controlling the ball, I thought," said Hawks coach John Herrington. "But our pass blocking was real poor. We had hoped to throw more than we did, but we had the wind in our face, then we had too big of a lead."

After a 10-yard punt gave the Hawks the ball at the Lakers' 29-yard line, Miller scored his fourth touchdown of the day on a 24-yard run. Miller also kicked the extra point.

In the fourth quarter, a 14-yard punt set up Harrison's final tally of the day. Brian Smolinski, on a fourth-and-two play, scored on a seven-yard run. Miller again converted the point after.

With under five minutes left in the game, the Lakers appeared to be on a scoring drive. On the strength of Sullivan's passing, West Bloomfield got inside Harrison's 40-yard, but Dennis Beauchamp leaped in front of receiver Scott McDonald and intercepted the pass. It was only the second time in the game that the Lakers were inside Harrison territory.

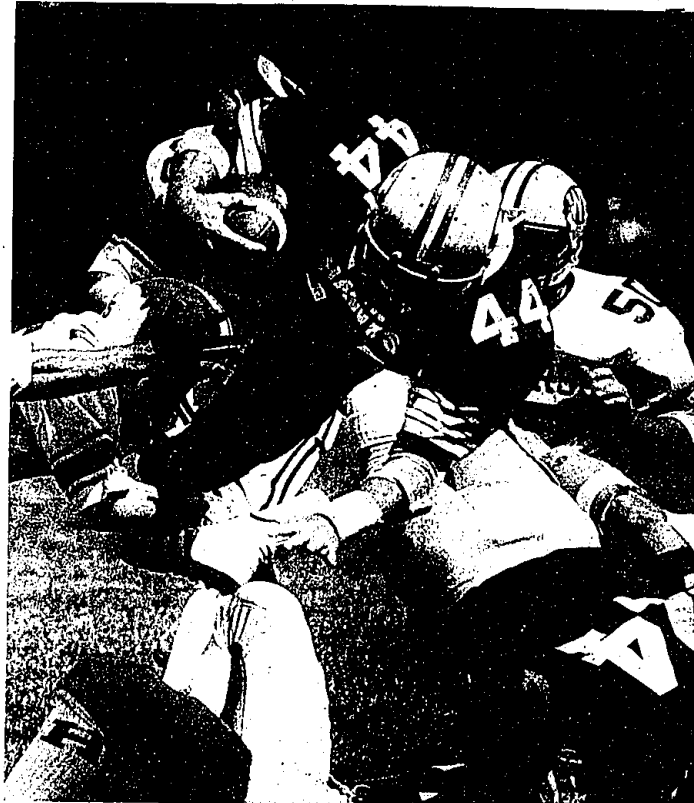
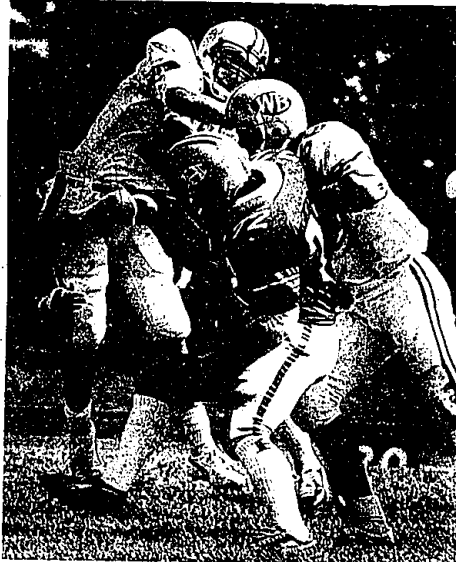


Photo by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Up and over goes Harrison running back John Miller (above), scoring one of his four touchdowns against West Bloomfield Saturday. Miller gained 130 yards on the day. At right, Lakers' quarterback Steve Sullivan feels the wrath of the Hawks' defense, Ben Chen (72) and Rob Smigielski (62).

quarterback Steve Sullivan feels the wrath of the Hawks' defense, Ben Chen (72) and Rob Smigielski (62).



Victory at last! Falcons blank Jays in opener

"Our greatest expectations were fulfilled."

You can't blame first-year Farmington High School coach Don Kulick for being just a tad jubilant. After all, his Falcons football team, winners of just one game in two years, had just beaten Southfield in their season opener, 17-0.

"I'm just so proud of our kids. I think it's the first time in history we shut somebody out in the opener of a season," Kulick said.

Ironically, the Farmington offense was just as responsible for the shut-out as the defense. By keeping control of the football, the Falcons limited Southfield to just eight offensive plays in the first half.

THE CLOSEST Southfield got to a score was late in the fourth quarter, when an interception got them inside

the Falcon 20-yard line. But the defense held.

"Southfield is not that good," said Kulick. "It wasn't much of a test as to how good a team we are. They ran pretty much what we thought they'd run. That's why we were able to stop them."

Farmington scored first after a Southfield fumble put the Falcons deep in Jays territory. Sophomore kicker Bruce Kratt drilled a 32-yard field goal, but Southfield was called for roughing the kicker. Kulick decided to accept the penalty and forego the field goal. His strategy paid off. Jim Laird, another Farmington sophomore, dove in from the 1 and Kratt added the point after, 7-0.

Kratt made it 10-0 with a 35-yard field goal in the fourth quarter. Senior Ken Waker led the victory with a 25-yard return of an interception.



Coach Don Kulick is 1-0 as Falcon head coach.

Kulick singled out the play of Mike Christensen, the Falcons' leading tackler on the day, and Waker, for their defensive play. They each intercepted one Southfield pass. Laird and quarterback Tim Berry were the Falcons' offensive stars.

Grounded Rocks stop run, Raiders fall 12-7

One man's ceiling is another man's floor.

The adage applies to Plymouth Salem's somewhat surprising 12-7 victory over North Farmington Saturday.

One man's ceiling: Salem's defense held North's potentially potent running game to a mere 84 yards.

Another man's floor: North tailback Ken Goss, who, with 4.5 speed in the 40-yard dash, ran for more than 600 yards last year, rolled his ankle the night before the game and couldn't play.

IT WASN'T a nice way for North coach Jim O'Leary to begin his first season.

"We worked all week on our running game," said O'Leary. "It's a little tough to change your game plan on the day of the game."

Conversely, the Rocks amassed 204 yards on the ground, running their wishbone offense to a 7. According to Salem's statistics, fullback Scott Jurck ran for 72 yards and quarterback Mark Tindall gained 74.

"We had an excellent ground game. Our offense controlled the ball very well," said Salem coach Tom Moshimer.

Salem's defense wasn't all that bad, either. North could manage just four yards in the first quarter and 36 in the second.

SALEM TOOK AN early 6-0 lead in the first quarter when Ken Harmon picked off an errant pass from North's Scott Draper on an attempted halfback option and ran it in from 22 yards out. The extra point was missed.

The passing game faltered North also. Quarterback Eric Engel completed just eight of 30 passes and had two intercepted.

"Eric has tremendous talent," said O'Leary. "He kind of lost his poise today. He had receivers open but couldn't get them the ball. I didn't want to have him trip him up at the 1. I'm glad they're going back to Chicago," said Rice coach Al Fracassa. "They're a good football team."

However, it was an Engel pass to Draper, good for 20 yards that accounted for the Raiders' lone touchdown. That came with 4:44 left in the first half and, after Tom Spahn's successful point after, North led 7-6.

That score stood up until five minutes into the second half. Tindall threw a pass that was tipped by two

Raider defenders into the hands of Mike Galliers for a 5-yard score. The Rocks failed on the point after again.

THE ROCKS HAD several other opportunities to score. Twice they had first downs inside the Raiders' 20, but fumbled the ball away. On another occasion, a Salem touchdown was nullified by a penalty.

Even 17-year veteran head coach Moshimer made a mistake. With the score 12-6 in the final five minutes of the game, the Rocks had it fourth-and-goal on the North 1. He elected to try a field goal.

The field goal was missed and North took the ball and marched inside the Rocks' 20-yard line. With 45 seconds left, Engel's pass into the endzone was picked off by Brail Morton and the victory was preserved.

"We won in spite of my bad coaching," said Moshimer. "I was thinking that a field goal would put them out of range, but of course that was wrong."

"I am just extremely proud of our football team. This was supposed to be one of North Farmington's better teams and we really took it to 'em," Moshimer said.

CC upset at 'Dome

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

One area Catholic League power was a winner and another a loser in the third annual Kick-Off Classic Saturday night at the Pontiac Silverdome before an estimated 10,000 people.

Redford Catholic Central was upset in the nightcap of the doubleheader by Traverse City, 14-6.

Birmingham Brother Rice, behind the running of Mel Farr and game-saving tackle by Mike Flynn, held off Chicago St. Carmel, 14-7.

The Chicagoans staged a furious rally in the final 1:17, marching 54 yards down to the Rice 4, intending to send the game into overtime.

Speedy receiver Rod Harris leaped through a host of Rice defenders to catch a 33-yard pass with only 11 seconds remaining.

Quarterback Eric Pappas then missed on two pass attempts, setting

up the final play of the game.

Pappas rolled back and found Jim Hoey near the sideline. Hoey caught the pass and sprinted toward the goal, only to have Flynn trip him up at the 1.

"I'm glad they're going back to Chicago," said Rice coach Al Fracassa. "They're a good football team."

"Mike made a helluva play. He'll remember that one all his life."

TRAVERSE CITY used a balanced attack to beat the injury riddled Shamrocks, who were minus two starting running backs and tight end Mark Messner.

Trojan quarterback John Wilson hit 10 of 18 passes for 146 yards to go along with a team total of 217 rushing.

In the second quarter, Wilson connected on seven consecutive passes, a majority to his favorite target, Joe Du-rocher.

Traverse City scored its first TD on a two-yard pass by B.J. Wolf. CC then had problems in the second half containing Traverse City's running game. The Trojans used the clock and eventually scored again when CC quarterback Matt Wilczewski fumbled in the end zone after being tripped. Middle linebacker Rob McGuffin recovered the fumble and Greg Bohm kicked the extra point to make it 14-0 with 7:24 remaining in the game.

CC, though, did not quit as Wilczewski drove his team in a score on a three-yard keeper with 3:20 to play.

CC got the ball back in the final 1:03, but the Trojan defense stiffened to preserve the victory.

"It seemed every time we got something going we'd make a mental error," said CC coach Tom Mack. "Once they (Traverse) got the momentum, it seemed they were hard to stop."

"We didn't get enough rush on the quarterback. We gave him too much time to set up. He stood back there and picked us apart at times it seemed."

Mercy netters start fast

Farmington Our Lady of Mercy's tennis team is off to about as good a start as anyone could ask.

The Marlins have lost twice — not meets, but matches. Mercy knocked off Catholic League rival Harper Woods Regatta Thursday, 6-0, at Oakland Community College after blanking Redford Bishop Borgess, 7-0, Tuesday.

Winners against Regatta included second singles Kathy Heimbock, 6-0, 6-0 over Kristin Hildebrand; third singles Lisa Huston, 6-0, 6-1 over Jenny Grayson; first doubles Carol Williams and Marissa Bahn over Carol Roell and Joan Noebel, 6-0, 6-0; sec-

tennis

ond doubles Lyn Viall and Carey Priestap over Julie Rinke and Ellen McDonald, 6-1, 6-2; and third doubles Missy Fitzgerald and Sue Cook over Laura Lesko and Lisa Formicola, 6-4, 6-3.

First singles Julie Caldwell fell to Gino Romeo, 6-0, 6-0, and fourth singles Barb Button lost to Maria Costa,

3-5, 6-3, 6-1.

The Marlins had little problem handling Borgess Tuesday. Button won first singles by a 6-1, 6-0 count, Viall was a 7-5, 6-3 victor in second singles, Nancy Enright captured third singles, 6-4, 7-5, and Barry Alexander took fourth singles, 6-2, 6-2. All three doubles teams won.