

## Sports

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(F1C)



C.J. Risak

## Watering idle sport musings

**W**ANDERING WHILE SWIMMING... Cold water — nothing gets my attention faster. How come everything that's supposed to be good for you — like exercise — is difficult and everything bad — like pounding pizza — is easy?

Test time: Before their win over Walled Lake Western, when was the last time the Redford Thurston Eagles won a football game?

Answer — Sixtieth lap (take that, Tiger Stadium quizmasters).

JUST A THOUGHT: The lawsuit filed against the Michigan High School Athletic Association by that concerned parents group charges that girl basketball players are forced to play their sport outside its normal season. But girls' basketball at the high school level has always been played in the fall.

Which makes me wonder: If the girls have always played in the fall, wouldn't that be their normal season?

Top three sports figures: 1. Chris Evert Lloyd; 2. Jan Stephenson; 3. Either of the first two's yearly earnings.

Best three thoughts while swimming: 1. Chris Evert Lloyd; 2. Jan Stephenson; 3. Either of the first two's yearly earnings.

I WILL NEVER understand the human attraction to lines. I say this while following the same one up and down this ally pool.

People love lines. They draw them on fields and floors and play games within them. They draw them on the ground and claim everything on one side as their sovereign territory. They fight wars just to move those lines.

The Soviets obviously take their lines seriously. They shoot down unarmed passenger jets that cross the ones they draw.

One place a successful battle is being waged against the influence of lines is at certain high school sports events. At last weekend's Northwest Suburban League football spectacular at the Silverdome there was no problem with lines. Only about 1,000 — can't really call that a crowd — were on hand.

How come? Seemed like a good time to see some good football. Maybe the weather was too nice. One thing's for sure — the lines weren't long enough to discourage anybody.

**TIME TO CHANGE** strokes and thoughts. Mark Spitz once said he used to think of beautiful women waiting at the end of each lap while swimming his 12,000-meter daily workouts. That's a lot of women.

12,000-meters — that's close to eight miles a day, closed up all within yourself. In that respect, swimming is like no other sport. All your senses are numbed by the water, leaving you in a world all your own.

I can only wonder about the incredible dedication of those triathletes. There is just one explanation how a person can convince his or her body to take that kind of punishment (swim three miles, bicycle 100 miles and run a marathon).

**Insanity.** **BEST SPORTS IN TERMS OF aerobic exercise:** 1. Cross country skiing; 2. Long distance running; 3. Bicycling; 4. Swimming.

**Best sports in terms of mental exercise:** 1. Golf; 2. Baseball; 3. Tennis; 4. Bowling.

My opinion, of course. Sports requiring a relaxed yet enduring effort, where timing and rhythm are of utmost importance, require more concentration.

Quiz No. 2: When was the last time Livonia Stevenson's soccer team was shut out prior to Friday's 1-0 loss to Bloomfield Hills Laber?

Oddity: On my summer soccer team, we had a goalie with a broken ankle. Don't ask me how — or why — he played.

Now on my fall soccer team, our goalie has a broken wrist.

It's the same player from the spring season. What luck.

**HOW IMPORTANT** is coaching? In the early years of an athlete's career, everything. Examples: Farmington Harrison football or Plymouth Salem basketball. Both always seem to have good teams whatever the talent available.

At the opposite end, do pro baseball and basketball coaches really do that much teaching? Refining — that's their jobs.

So how come the highest paid coaches do less to develop talent than those at the bottom of the scale?

It's the American way.

Soccer quiz answer: Stevenson's soccer squad, the defending Class A state champ, went more than 60 games between shutout losses. The last team to blank the Spartans was Flint Carmen, 2-0 in 1979.

**DO GOOD FOOTBALL** players make good coaches? (Wait until season's end and ask the half-dozen Oakland County football teams that have finished players serving as assistants.)

Answer to the Thurston quiz: Sept. 18, 1981 was the last time Thurston won a football game prior to this season's victory over Walled Lake Western.

The previous victory was against Oak Park.

You know, I swim for an hour or more and I never end up further than 15 yards from where I started.

Which can only mean I'm going nowhere — not so fast.

## Davidson leads Hawks' netters

Farmington Harrison finally got to play a match on its home courts Monday, and judging from the results, the team rather enjoyed it.

The Hawks had a relatively easy time against Farmington, beating them 7-0 to win the mythical Farmington-Farmington Hills city championship and stay undefeated in 1983. They had defeated North Farmington 5-2 last week.

The Hawks were forced to play their matches wherever and whenever they could up until Monday. The Harrison courts were getting resurfaced.

Kelly Davidson, one of the premier singles players in the state, handily defeated Farmington's Leslie Lawrence, 6-0, 6-0 in No. 1 singles.

"IT'S A PLEASURE to watch her play," Harrison coach Bernie Goldstein said of his No. 1 singles player. "She has good strokes, she plays to win and she covers the whole court. She's always thinking. I'd say she was one of the top 10 women's players in the state."

Her best weapon, Goldstein said, is her two-handed backhand. "It's just devastating," he said.

Davidson, a junior, reached the semifinals in the state as a freshman. Last year she was injured and couldn't compete. If everything goes right, Davidson could reach the state finals this year.

Other Harrison winners against Farmington were: Joelle Lukaszewicz, 6-3, 6-1, over Jill Anderson, Sharise Berk, 6-0, 6-0 over Karen Williams, and Jill Birsa, 6-0, 6-0, over Julie Neer, in Nos. 2, 3, and 4 singles respectively.

*It's a pleasure to watch (Kelly) play. She has good strokes, she plays to win and she covers the whole court. She's always thinking. I'd say she was one of the top 10 women's players in the state.*

*Bernie Goldstein  
Harrison tennis coach*

In doubles, Amy Jacobs and Jill Brady defeated Kathy Korybalski and Jenny Ferry, 6-1, 6-3; Deanie Kool and Heidi Heyst defeated Sandy Goerke, 6-0, 6-1; and Laurel Barnard and Nina Kutinsky defeated Lisa Schwab and Colleen McKee, 6-1, 6-4.

ON TUESDAY, Harrison defeated Walled Lake Central 4-3. In Harrison's 11 victories last year, eight were by a 4-3 score.

"Our singles always win and our doubles lose," Goldstein said.

Davidson had another easy time of it, defeating Karen Brown, 6-1, 6-1. Lukaszewicz didn't yield a game to Cindy Zienert, Berg won 6-1, 6-1 over Ann Schullick, and Birsa whipped Debbie Wonsak, 6-1, 6-2.

However, all three doubles teams were losers.

Harrison is now 4-0 in Western Lakes Athletic Association action. They are 6-0 overall. Farmington has yet to win a match. Walled Lake Central is 6-2.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Kelly Davidson, Harrison's No. 1 singles player, takes aim at a volley of Farmington's Leslie Lawrence. Davidson won the Monday match, 6-0, 6-0, as the Hawks flew past the Falcons, 7-0.

## What kind of mark is 27 straight wins?

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

**M**OST PEOPLE WHO care are aware that the Farmington Harrison football team has a 26-game winning streak going.

But, not too many people know whether or not that 26-game streak is a state record in Class A.

To be sure, it is far short of the state record for consecutive wins. Hudson, coached at the time by Tom Saylor, ran up 74 straight victories in the mid-1970s. Hudson's feat is also the national record.

Hudson, however, is a Class C school. That leaves unanswered the question, who has the longest winning streak in Class A?

THE MICHIGAN High School Athletic Association does not break down its records according to class. The only consecutive winning streak in their books is owned by Hudson.

MHSAA officials said, as far as the association was concerned, there is no such record as the most consecutive wins by a Class A school.

Ah, but still, somewhere in the history of high school football, one Class A football team has strung together more wins in a row than any other. The problem is, which team?

Saginaw Arthur Hill had a string of 19 straight in 1978. In 11 of those games, Arthur Hill went unbeaten and unscored upon. That is a record kept by the MHSAA.

Al Fracassa's Brother Rice teams in the late 1970s strung together 24 straight wins. Jack Castiglione's Trenton teams of the early and mid-1970s had several long winning streaks but none longer than 20 games.

**COULD HARRISON ALREADY** have the record?

Not according to Richard Kishpaugh. Kishpaugh is the unofficial historian of high school football. According to his memory banks and personal records, the Flint Northern teams of the 1960s amassed 26 consecutive victories.

As far as Kishpaugh and most other area football coaches are concerned, if Harrison beats Walled Lake Western this Saturday afternoon, the record for most consecutive wins in Class A will belong to them.

But, Harrison coach John Herrington has more important things to concern

*"We haven't mentioned (the streak). We have taken the tack that each team is different. This is a division game and that's where important. Nobody really knows if 26 or 27 wins is a record. If it is, then that's fine."*

*John Herrington  
Harrison football coach*

himself with than, at best, a mythical state record.

"WE HAVEN'T mentioned it," Herrington said of the streak. "We have taken the tack that each team is different. This is a division game and that's where important. Nobody really knows if 26 or 27 wins is a record. If it is, then that's fine."

Herrington has not been satisfied with certain aspects of his team this season even though they appear to be sailing along at 3-0.

John Miller, junior halfback, has carried more than his share of the load. Of Harrison's 691 total offensive yards, Miller has run for 386 of them. He has scored eight touchdowns in three games.

Defensively, the Hawks have yielded just one TD and 320 total yards to its opponents.

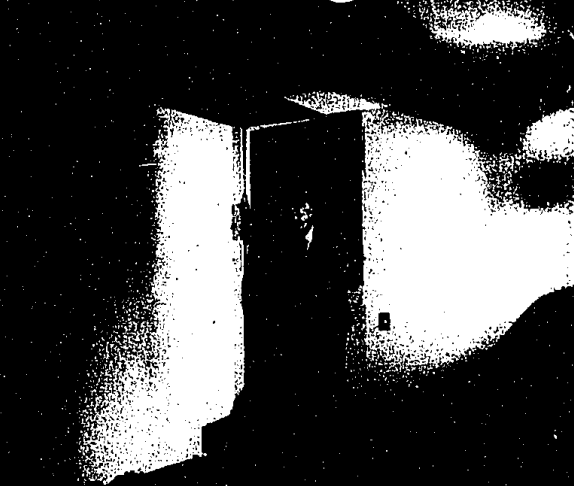
**SO WHERE'S** the problem? The problems aren't problems, yet. They are merely concerns.

Herrington has said over and over that a good football team will stop one good back. So far this season, Harrison's offense has consisted of only one good back.

The potential of a dangerous passing attack is present, but it hasn't exerted itself yet. Quarterback Scott Gliniski showed signs of gaining confidence completing three of seven passes against Noviville last week. He still has a long way to go, though, Herrington said.

Perhaps the concern Herrington finds most unerving is the lack of a kicking game. After having the state's best kicker last year in Dave Blackmer, the Hawks' kicking game has gone from riches to rags.

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