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Chris McCosky

Hawks lose? Ain't no way

TWO AREA SPORTS editors are sitting in a local pub discussing this week's big football clash between Farmington Harrison and Walled Lake Central. It's not a pretty sight.

"I can't believe you think Harrison is going to lose?"

"Hey, I'm telling you, Central is a fine team. Every year it seems like somebody comes out of nowhere and has a big year. A couple years ago it was North Farmington when they knocked off Brother Rice, remember that? Then there was Fraser two years ago, and Escanaba. I just think this is going to be Central's year."

"Do you know who was the last Observer & Eccentric editor to bet against a John Herrington-coached football team?"

"Who?"

"Jim Hughes in Rochester. He picked West Bloomfield to upset them in 1982 and he regrets it to this day. You are gonna look awfully silly come Monday, buddy."

"HARRISON WON'T be able to stop the option. I saw Tom Menard, their quarterback, play a couple weeks ago. He's tough. Then they got this speed back named Wayne Adams. I think he's got something like 550 yards and six TEs already. Plus, they throw the ball a lot better than Harrison. Shoot, Harrison had trouble stopping the option against Canton last week."

"Not too much trouble, they beat them 55-7. And, hey, you can have Adams. I'll take Jim Miller. Miller's gained 558 yards and scored 14 touchdowns and he's played only about a half of each game."

"OK, but you've got to admit, Central's got the edge in the quarterback department."

"Perhaps, but only because of Menard's experience. The kid has been a starter for three years. Scott Gilinski has been a starter for five games and he's improving every week."

"Yeah, he's improving every week and Bob Wascenak keeps getting worse. How many did he drop last week?"

"I DON'T CARE how many he's dropped, he's still the most dangerous receiver in the area. And he's one of the best defensive backs around, too. He's made some unbelievable interceptions this year. See, that's the point you're aren't seeing. Sure, Walled Lake has a fine offense. But their offense has never played against a defense like Harrison's. When the Hawks hit you, you know you've been hit."

"Central's got a size advantage over Harrison, don't forget. They've got two tackles over 6-foot and 225 pounds. They can do some sticking of their own."

"Right, but Northville had two guys 6-foot-7, 250 who could really stick and Harrison ran through them. In fact, Harrison always plays against bigger teams in the big games. Fordson was a lot bigger than the Hawks were last year. You can throw out the size factor in this game, as far as I'm concerned."

"Have you talked to the Walled Lake coach at all? What's his name, John Van Sicken?"

"Van Sicken, right. His kid, Mike, plays fullback and averages about seven yards a carry, but hardly ever carries the ball. Kind of like Harrison's Bill Wood. Yeah, I've talked to him."

"WHAT'S he say?"

"He hopes his team can control the ball and keep Miller off the field. As far as he's concerned, you stop Miller, you stop Harrison."

"That's not right, isn't it?"

"I don't know. Nobody's ever stopped him."

"What else did Van Sicken say?"

"He said his kids have been pointing to this game all year and that they are higher than kites. But, I told him that Harrison's kids are going to be just as high. He said he thought the game boiled down to his offense against Harrison's defense."

"I know their offense can do a lot of things. They'll really spread Harrison's defense thin."

"THAT'S EXACTLY what Herrington said. He said Central worried him because they have such a balanced offense. But, he said, his team has been working on a more sophisticated approach to defense this week. I mean, it's not like Central's going to surprise them."

"The funny thing about this game is, it might not be the biggest game of the year."

"Hub?"

"It's just a cross-over game. If they both win the following week, they will win their division and face each other again in the playoffs."

"You're right, but it won't be so easy for Central. They have to play Plymouth Salem and the Rocks are undefeated. Not exactly pushovers."

"Hey, it's all part of the fun of Western Lakes football."

"YOU STILL sticking with Central, eh?"

"You bet, I'm not backing down. I think this is Central's year. Harrison's had it easy up until now. Herrington has said over and over that a good team will stop one good back — and to be honest with you, that's all Harrison has."

"Oh, buddy, you are going to cheese some Harrison boosters off. Not only that, but you are dead wrong. Harrison hasn't even shown all they can do yet. They haven't used Wascenak to his full capacity yet. There's a lot of things they haven't done offensively this year, simply because there hasn't been the need."

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North ties WB in swim relays

For the first time in more than five years, a Farmington team has won the Farmington Swim Relays.

Well, sort of.

North Farmington and West Bloomfield each earned 70 points to share the top spot in the relays held at Farmington High School Tuesday night.

Farmington Harrison was third with 46 points, Novi fourth with 38 and Farmington last with 23.

THE SIXTH team scheduled to compete in the relays, Livonia Stevenson, never showed up.

"I really don't know why they didn't show up," said North coach Jordan Hatch. "We didn't know they weren't coming until the last minute."

But Stevenson's absence didn't keep Jordan's Raiders from thoroughly enjoying the relays.

North took first place in four events.

The Raider 200-yard backstroke team of Kathy Pierog, Laura Detzel, Katy Harnden and Helen Sue Howard won with a time of 2:09.2.

THEIR 200-BUTTERFLY team of Colleen Carey, Amy Monette, Jennifer Rowe and Mary Manderfield won with a time of 2:03.2.

The 400-individual medley team of Jill Menelle, Suzette Greenberg, Harnden and Pierog, won with a 4:44.4. And North's crescendo relay team of Manderfield, Marge Cramer, Carey and Rowe won with a 4:54.1.

It was ironic that West Bloomfield and North should tie. Last week, North beat West Bloomfield for the first time in the school's history in a dual meet.

Harrison took four second places and Farmington took a first in diving. Katie MacIntosh and Nancy Nicolai earned 160.70 points for the Falcons.



North's Colleen Carey helped her 200-yard butterfly team outswim Harrison's

team by just two seconds at the fifth annual Farmington Relays last Tuesday.

Fortune hits for 32, but Falcons still fall

Two excellent players do not a winning basketball team make.

It never was — proof of that came 14 Bruce Brown's Farmington team.

Alyse Fortune scored 32 points and Rhonda Lancaster added 10, but that wasn't enough to prevent Livonia Stevenson from winning the game, 57-46.

"It's tough to win with just two players," said Brown.

But, his team played inspired basketball throughout the game. With 38 seconds left in the first half, Stevenson had a five point lead. By the time those 38 seconds elapsed, Farmington led by one, 31-30.

Stevenson took charge in the third quarter, outscoring the Falcons, 18-9.

"We switched defenses in the second half," said Stevenson coach Wayne Henry. "We switched zones and threw a different press at them. I think they only had seven field goals the entire second half."

Meanwhile, the Spartans created 22 steals, eight by Mary Kay Hussey and seven by Lisa Bokovoy.

"It wasn't real pretty," said Brown. "We couldn't handle their ball pressure. We couldn't get the ball in bounds."

Hussey led Spartan scorers with 24 points. Amy Rozman had 11 and Bokovoy 10. Hussey and Rozman each pulled down 11 rebounds.

The loss leaves the Falcons at 2-8 on the year. Stevenson is 7-4.

MERCY 35, MARIAN 22: A tenacious Birmingham Marian team gave Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy all it could handle last Tuesday night.

But, the Marlies prevailed thanks largely to junior center Mary Rosowski. She scored 12 points and pulled down 14 rebounds, game-highs in both categories.

"We were trying to play a speed game with them," said Mercy coach Larry Baker. "They played a hard-nosed game for 32 minutes and I think they deserve a lot of credit."

Marian led after the first quarter, 8-7, but Mercy took control by half-time, 21-12.

"Marian just wouldn't let us go," Baker said.

Terri Ford played a strong game for Mercy. She scored six points, but she was very effective off the fast break.

She made some remarkable passes off the break, Baker said.

Mary Kelly led Marian with nine points.

"We were not very sharp on the offensive end," said Baker. "I hope we execute better offensively Thursday, or we'll get dumped."

Thursday, Mercy is home to play Regina.

NEARFARMINGTON 53, KETTERING 46: Webster's Dictionary doesn't contain enough superlatives to keep pace with Amy Austin.

Against non-league rival Waterford Kettering Tuesday, Austin scored 19 points, made eight steals, pulled down eight rebounds and dished out five assists. A fair night's work for her — a

fair season's worth of work for some others.

"Amy was awesome tonight," said Kettering coach John Glenn.

Raiders played well. This was the best first half we've had in a long time."

A 16-4 second-quarter spurt gave North a 35-17 halftime advantage.

Suzanne Howley scored 10 points for North and Patti Kozicki came off the bench to score four points and grab six rebounds.

North has a Northwest Suburban League showdown Thursday night at Westland John Glenn.

REDFORD UNION 41, HARRISON 25: Oh, how a lack of depth can kill a basketball team.

Harrison trailed RU by just three points mid-way through the final quarter Tuesday, but Karen Sklar and Michelle Wise fouled out and coach Gary Sine was in big trouble.

Because he has only seven players on his roster, two called up from the junior varsity during the season, Sine can ill-afford to lose any of his five starters.

"We gave them trouble tonight," said Sine. "We mixed up our defenses. They had a hell-of-a-time. We ran a delay at the end of the third quarter because we were in foul trouble. It was 20-20 when we went into it and they went up 23-20 by the end of the quarter."

However, once Sklar and Wise were lost, RU outscored the Hawks 18-5.

Sklar led the Hawks with 11 points. Janine Whitmore had a big game, grabbing 15 rebounds and Dana Dinkins blocked six shots.

Redford was led by Julie Marchand's 20 points.

Harrison is winless this season.

MERCY'S Sue Scott

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Central conquers links

No surprises here.

Walled Lake Central and Walled Lake Western, the two Western Lakes Athletic Association Division champs, placed one and two respectively in the league meet last Monday.

Central, the Lakes Division champ, had a team score of 54.10, which won the match 37-14 against Western's 18.11. Kish was the meet's medalist, shooting a 72.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL placed third (41.0) and Livonia Stevenson (41.7) was fourth.

Farmington was next with a 41.8, then Northville followed with 41.9. Plymouth Canton (42.2), Livonia

Bentley (43.0), Plymouth Salem (44.7), and Farmington Harrison (47.2), rounded out the field.

Besides Kish, others to make the All-League team were, Dave Smith, Walled Lake Western, 73; Chris LaFave, Walled Lake Central, 76; Craig

Wasson, Western Lakes Division champ, 80; and Western's BEN Kish was the meet's medalist, shooting a 72.

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