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Jim Hughes A hearty plea for Hawk degree

Jim Hughes is sports editor for the Troy and Rochester Eccentric Newspapers. Don't let anyone in Troy or Rochester catch wind of this, but I want Chris McCosky's job. The guy watches Farmington Harrison's football team most every week and he gets paid for it. That's not work, that's fun stuff!

Now I don't want to upset people from the other Farmington schools, because I know there's more in this town than Harrison football. If I remember correctly, Mercy doesn't do too bad in basketball and swimming. North Farmington is a girls' swimming and hoop power and Farmington football is on course to the glory days of yesterday.

But there's so much to be said about Harrison football — and most of it already has been.

SO WHAT am I getting at? Well, there's a daily sports columnist around town who fancies honorary degrees from certain major universities that field successful football teams. If he can do it at that level, why can't I do it on the high school level?

I bring before you two pleas: 1. Make me an honorary alumnus of Farmington Harrison; and 2. Change the school's name to Farmington Herrington.

I graduated from Dearborn Edsel Ford High School and Central Michigan University. I'm proud of both accomplishments, but an honorary degree from Herrington High would make my schooling complete.

A graduate of Herrington High most likely could get a coaching job anywhere in the country, and rumor has it the University of Notre Dame job will be open next year. I'd promise to change the Fighting Irish colors to green and yellow — like it should be in the first place and I'd actively recruit John Miller and convince Mike Bowden to transfer. What the heck, I'd even go all the way and change the school's name to Farmington Herrington.

Why my affection for Harrison football? It's really quite simple. Now I'm an old football historian (at age 25 you can only have seen so many high school football games), but I know a good thing when I see one. I first saw Harrison's football team in the 1976 Class A state championship game at the Pontiac Silverdome. Harrison led a hard-fought battle to the Midland Bowl, but the Hawks and running back Mike Bowden really impressed me.

THAT WAS the last I saw of Harrison until I graduated from college. My next viewing was in 1981 when the Hawks needed a victory over Avondale to qualify for the state playoffs. They overcame the Rhinos, Sweeney ran wild, and the Hawks went on to defeat seemingly invincible Muskegon Catholic Central in the Class B championship game.

The following year, I saw Harrison thump Plymouth Salem in the first-ever Western Lakes Athletic Association title tilt. A few weeks later, I saw the greatest high school football game ever played. Yep, Harrison's 17-14 overtime victory over Dearborn Fordson in the Class A title game last November.

This season, I watched the Hawks own Walled Lake with a combined score of 69-0 over Western and Central. I don't want to take credit for Harrison's 29-game winning streak, but they do seem to play well when I'm there.

Now, my qualifications for the Herrington High degree:

- First, my favorite colors are green and yellow. I have nine green sweaters and a Harrison "Hawks Awesome" painter's cap. My car is a Hawk, and, although it's not yellow, it could qualify as a lemon.
- Like coach John Herrington, I'm Irish.
- One of my favorite refreshments is Lite Beer from — who else — Miller.
- My favorite high school marching band in the state is Harrison's.
- I think Harrison has the prettiest tennis players and cheerleaders around (sexist attitude, I know).
- I just love a winner.

IS THAT enough? In all sincerity, I have nothing but praise for Harrison's coaching staff, players and fans. Going to a Harrison home game is an event. I really look forward to Saturdays at Harrison — finding a parking place somewhere near the field; buying a 50-50 raffle ticket which could pay off my life insurance policy if I ever win; watching the players methodically go through their pre-game rituals like it was just another game; watching the players come from the school to the field in a "controlled strut," as McCosky calls it; watching the cheerleaders ring the bell after each touchdown and field goal; and taking in the post-game celebrations as mothers, girlfriends and cheerleaders smack Herrington on the cheek with congratulatory kisses.

Finally, listening to Herrington himself is a treat. The man has a way with words, and he has a field day with the press.

You can send me my diploma in care of the Observer Newspapers. Chris will make sure I get it. Then I can be proud to say I'm a Herrington Hawk, too.

Oh, by the way, in last year's prediction column when I picked West Bloomfield over Harrison — that was a typographical error.

See ya at the Silverdome!

Raiders escape GC's upset bid

The Garden City Cougars, who upset John Glenn earlier this season, darn near did it to league-leading North Farmington Tuesday night.

But the Raiders, thanks to 24 points from Amy Austin, escaped with a 35-29 win.

"We weren't very up and it showed," said North coach Greg Grodzicki. "It was one of those games where we came out flat and played flat. If it wasn't for Amy, we might have gotten beat."

Austin did it all. Besides her 24 points (11 for 17 from the floor), she grabbed nine rebounds and made eight steals.

North, despite some sloppy play, built up a 16-7 halftime lead. But Garden City, on the strength of 12 points from Tammy Narramore, got right back into the game in the third quarter.

Narramore ended the game with 15. North, by virtue of John Glenn's 40-38 win Tuesday over Franklin, has a two-game margin over everyone in the Northwest Suburban League. The Raiders need Redford Thurston Thursday.

SALEM 43, FARMINGTON 25: It was a question of too much defense. Too much Plymouth Salem defense, that is.

girls basketball

The Rocks' pressing man-to-man defense unraveled the Falcons.

"Their defense just ate us up," said Falcon coach Bruce Brown. "We couldn't get into our offense at all."

Salem, led by Pam McBride (12 points) and Dawn Johnson (10 points), raced to a 16-3 first-quarter lead. That lead ballooned to 28-9 by the half.

Alyse Fortune had 11 for the Falcons and Mary Church added six.

Farmington's record is now 2-10.

W.L. WESTERN 71, HARRISON 27: These teams are the inverse of each other. The Hawks are 0-13, while Western is 13-0. That, more or less, explains the 44-point spread.

Val Hall led Western with 14 points. Karen Sklar had nine and Jodi Bennett seven for the Hawks.

Ladywood loses

Harper Woods Regina, struggling with three losses in the Catholic League Central Division, up and bit league-leading Livonia Ladywood Tuesday night.

The teams played a tight, physical game and a tie for first between Our Lady of Mercy and Ladywood. The two league leaders have their rematch Thursday at Brother Rice High School.

Regina took advantage of some hot shooting and a lackluster performance by the Blazers to jump ahead 42-31 at the half.

"This was the worst half of basketball we played all season," said Ladywood coach Ed Kavanaugh, of that first half. "We're a young team and this will happen. We played a great second half. We never quit. I'm proud of the girls."

Down by as many as 15 in the second half, the Blazers pulled within three several times in the final quarter, but could get no closer.

Emily Wagner led all scorers with 26

points for Ladywood. She was eight of nine from the free throw line. Char Gowan, who was in foul trouble throughout the game, tallied 23. Tracy Ladouceur added 11.

300-point season for Regina with 41. Janice Scherer and Julie Georgian had 18 and 15 respectively.

"The players we keyed on, we stopped," said Kavanaugh. "But the others that we didn't figure would hurt us, produced."

Ladywood is 6-1 in league play, 11-1 overall.

MERCY 44, GALLAGHER 33: It looked like it might be another Catholic League upset for a while, but Mercy took control of things in the second half.

"They really came after us and forced us into a number of turnovers," said Mercy coach Larry Baker. "We didn't execute well in the first half, but

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Ouch! Miller, Waz hurting— questionable starters

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Farmington Harrison's 31-0 rout of Walled Lake Central last Saturday may have been a bit more costly than the Hawks first realized.

John Miller and Bob Wasczenski, Harrison's prized thoroughbreds, are hurt and coach John Herrington said he isn't sure if they will be ready for Saturday's final league contest against Livonia Churchill.

Miller left the game for just one play against Central. He said afterwards that he hyperextended his knee, but he felt fine. He finished the



RANDY BOST/Staff photographer
John Miller's knee was stiff and swollen this week. He is questionable for Saturday.

game gaining 144 yards rushing and scoring three touchdowns.

When Miller woke up Sunday, Herrington said, the knee had swollen considerably. Herrington said fluid has been drained off the knee.

"I don't know. The doctor looked at him and said he probably could play. But, it's a day to day thing. It stiffened up on Sunday and was bad on Monday. Today (Tuesday) he was better, so we'll have to see how it is on Saturday," Herrington said.

WASCZENSKI WENT down in the first half against Central after making a tackle. He ran off the field under his own strength and finished the game.

But, the Harrison team doctor said that Wasczenski has bruised ribs and a possible fracture in his hand.

"I think Waz will play," Herrington said.

Harrison's opponent this week, Churchill, is 1-5 on the year. Herrington hopes he doesn't have to use his injured stars too much.

"I'm more worried about the defense than anything," he said. "We need them (Miller and Wasczenski) to stop the pass."

Churchill has a dangerous passing attack led by junior quarterback John Stolladis.

Harrison has also received official word on where it will play its pool. It'll be at Salem Central Friday, Harrison will play Salem at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, at Salem. If Central wins, Harrison and Central will play at 7:30 p.m. Friday, at Walled Lake Central.



Joelle Lukasiewicz is one of three Harrison singles players to win first place at the Waterford regional tournament last

weekend. Lukasiewicz has not lost a set in 18 matches this season.

State-bound Hawks seek Class A title

For the first time in the school's history, the Farmington Harrison girls tennis team has qualified for the state Class A tennis tournament.

The Hawks earned the right to compete at the state meet by gaining a second-place tie in the regional tournament held last weekend in Waterford. The Hawks tied for second with the 14-team regional. Harrison and West Bloomfield tied for second with 17 points each.

Harrison got first place victories in Nos. 1, 2 and 4 singles. Kelly Davidson, seeded No. 1 in No. 1 singles, defeated Andover's Linda Pursel, 7-5 6-0 in the finals. Davidson is likely to be the No. 1 seed at the state meet as well.

IN NO. 2 singles, Harrison's Joelle Lukasiewicz defeated Andover's Kristi Lynch, 6-3, 6-2. Lukasiewicz has not lost a set in 18 matches this season. Both Davidson and Lukasiewicz are 19-0.

Jill Birsa won No. 4 singles by defeating Lake

Orion's Kathy Richter, 6-3, 6-3. Birsa has lost just one match all season.

Harrison's No. 3 singles player, Sharise Berk, fell to Andover's Corie Wayburn in the semi-finals, 7-5, 6-4. It was her only set back of the season.

The three points earned by their doubles teams. Jill Brady and Amy Jacobs defeated Farmington in the first round of No. 1 doubles play 6-0, 6-1.

In No. 2, Deane Kool and Heidi Reyst defeated North Farmington, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

And, Lisa and Jennifer Marks defeated Clarkson 6-2, 6-3.

The state tournament will begin Friday at the Midland Community Center. Semi-final and final rounds will take place Saturday.

Harrison, champions of the Western Lakes Athletic Conference, finished the regular season with a 18-0 record. They were 9-0 in the league.



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