



(F10)



C.J. Risak

Upsets enrich true believers

THERE I SAT, spouting sports with friends (as a writer of the subject, people often feel it necessary to add their insight into my occupation) when an unknown poster by nonchalantly announced: "Harrison lost."

"What?" I said in disbelief. Impossible. Farmington Harrison, the state's best team, winner of 49 games in a row, could not possibly lose to the likes of Livonia Churchill, a squad with one win in six games this season.

"13-12," the stranger insisted before wandering away.

Not until the next day, when I searched the Sunday paper for the undeniable truth, was I convinced that Churchill had indeed shocked Harrison.

KNOW WHAT? Right then I checked myself and asked a very pertinent, insightful question: Why?

Why was it so surprising to me that Churchill won? My answer: Because Harrison had the incredible streak, an amazing feat in this age of state playoffs. The Hawks were simply an awesome team. Certainly they would lose, it was inevitable. But not to a weak Churchill squad.

Then I examined it more closely, taking both teams apart piecemeal. Know what I found?

On both sides of that line of scrimmage last Saturday were high school kids. Not computerized machines that react the same way each time the ball is snapped. Not refined pro or college players.

Teen-age kids. And teen-age kids are liable to do some crazy things. Especially if they think they can get away with it.

The Chargers thought they could get away with something crazy against Harrison. They dared believe what we now also could imagine.

They believed they could beat Harrison.

BELIEVE ME, believing can be a potent weapon.

"That's the exciting thing about amateur sports," Churchill coach Ken Kaestner said Monday. "When kids do more than they're capable of."

Games like Saturday's Churchill-Harrison clash should prove that what kids are capable of is virtually limitless. As Kaestner put it, "We had to play close to a perfect game, and we did."

Which may explain what high school coaching is all about: teaching how to win. To persevere. To believe.

Churchill's upset victory wasn't the first of its kind. Earlier this season, Rochester met Birmingham Groves. Both teams possessed perfect records: Rochester was 4-0, Groves 0-4. Groves prevailed, 13-10, besting a team that had won 12 of its last 13 games over two seasons.

"IT'S PEOPLE believing in people," was how Groves' coach Bill Rankin explained it. "I kept preaching to the kids to practice hard, to make sure everybody's ready to play, and that the wins and losses will take care of themselves."

And yet we were still 0-4. I've never coached a 0-9 team, but I've got to admit the thought crossed my mind. If Rochester blows us off the map 40-0 we're 0-7 now.

That didn't happen. Instead, Rankin's Falcons did what nobody expected. They knocked off Rochester. Then they won their next two games, too.

"That (Rochester) game meant a great deal," Rankin continued. "We've got a good group of kids, not overly talented but real hard workers. The kids believe in themselves now."

GROVES, WHICH had been the Metro Suburban Association power two seasons ago, reversed what looked to be a downturn in the program back towards promise for the future.

Teaching how to win is no easy task. Look at the nature of sport. There is always a loser. As Rankin said, "Football is a high fatality sport. Fifty percent of the teams that play every week lose."

It isn't easy to make believers out of kids who, despite long hours of hard work, still come up on the short end. Yet both Kaestner and Rankin managed, as others have.

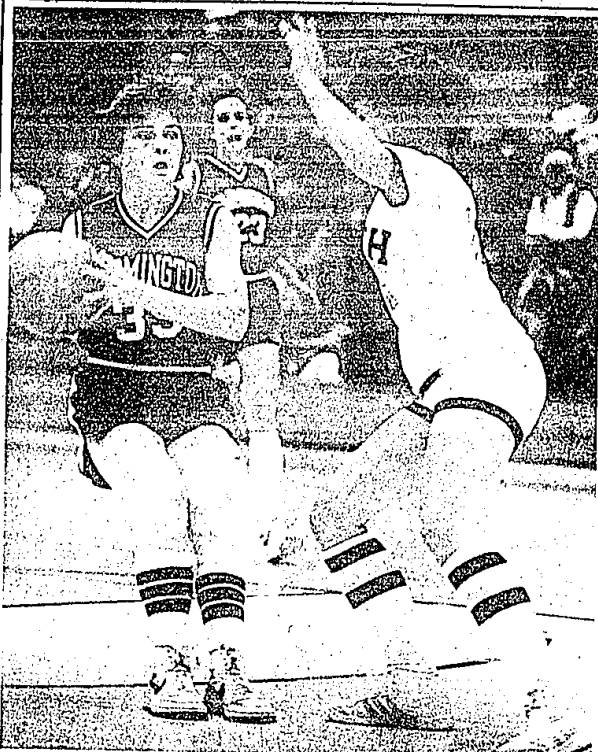
"This is something we'll never forget," Kaestner said of the win over Harrison. "I've just got to compliment the guys I work with, coaches Herb Osterland and Darrell Copley, and the kids."

"Our finest hour was that final winning drive. I think about it now and it still gives me goosebumps. We could have folded our tents but we didn't."

TENT-FOLDING isn't found in successful football programs. What is found are players who believe the same things that Rankin told his troops: keep working, keep trying, and it'll show up in the win column. Sooner or later, your invested efforts will pay dividends.

It might come in a 29-game win streak, like Harrison's. Or it may reach fruition in a single afternoon, like last Saturday for Churchill.

Whatever or whenever, it takes talented teachers to convince teen-age kids that accomplishing the seemingly impossible. I'm glad there are guys like that around; they make doubters like me believe that no goal is unreachable.



North Farmington guard Lisa Mummert (in white) stops Farmington's Rhonda Lancaster in her tracks in North's 65-43 win Tuesday. Lancaster scored 19 points

for the Falcons. Mummert made six steals and dished out four assists for the Raiders.

Falcons fall in state semifinals

By Paul King
special writer

Livonia schools Bentley and Stevenson will each have the home field advantage in Saturday's Class A regional boys' soccer finals.

Stevenson (17-2-1) advanced with a 4-0 semifinal victory Monday night over visiting Farmington. The Spartans, defending Class A champs, take on Northville, one of two teams to beat them this season, at 2 p.m.

Bentley, meanwhile, ousted Class A runner-up Livonia Churchill, 3-1, behind Dennis Patchett's game-winning goal (his 14th), coming early in the second half from Tony Pollock. The Bulldogs then put the game away with just 1:14 left when Jim Radeback scored from Patchett.

Bentley faces the winner of Wednesday's Plymouth-Canton-Harper Woods-Notre Dame game (2 p.m. Saturday at home).

In the first half, Bentley scored first at 25:37 (Pollock from Patchett), but Churchill came back just 4:04 later to tie the game (Dave Gluth from Phil Lusier).

The 400 fans saw Bentley outshoot Churchill, 16-15, as Jeff Wilkinson was the winning goalscorer.

Also keying the Bentley victory were playmakers Steve Hollar and Pete Lomas.

Churchill is now 8-5-3.

Four different Stevenson players scored in the win over Farmington.

Chris Wiegall and Eric Pence (his 21st) both scored in the first half, while John Drouillard and John Gelmini (his 37th) got second-half scores.

Defensively, Chris Banyai and Steve Karfis were outstanding for the Spartans. They helped goalie Terry Harshfield gain his 10th shutout of the year.

SALEM 3, BENTLEY 2: Playing without two starters, the Rocks (10-4-2) won it when Kevin Sultana scored the game-winner on a header from Randy Johnson with three minutes to play.

Salem moved into second place with

soccer

the Lakes Division win Tuesday at home.

Mark Flowers tallied a goal in each half for the winners, the first coming at 15 minutes (from Eldon Nash) and the second at the outset of the second half (from Johnson).

Bob Bowling picked up the slack on the defensive line for starter Jeff Neschich, who broke his arm during the first minute of play. Steve Moran, another starter, was also out.

Bentley's Torn Gniwew opened the scoring just after Neschich was carried off the field, while Abe Yaffai scored the Bulldogs' other goal (Police assisted).

Sophomore Joe Kneorrel was the winning goalscorer, stopping 14 Salem shots.

FARMINGTON 3, NORTH FARMINGTON 0: The Falcons, now 9-7-3, claimed the city championship with the victory Tuesday.

North, meanwhile, drops to 0-13-2.

Farmington took a 1-0 halftime lead on Alex Juca's goal from Chris Hackman.

The Falcons added two more in the second half — Hackman on a penalty kick followed by Mario Said (unassisted).

Goalie Mark Pingree needed to make just five saves to notch his third shutout of the season.

CANTON 5, HARRISON 3: Steve Morell scored in each half to give Canton its eighth win overall in a Western Division game played Tuesday afternoon.

Tom Wright added two assists and tallied 20th goal this season. Tony Shiner (his first) and Dave Luzzo rounded out the Canton scoring.

Dave Hawkins, the Canton goalie, stopped three of six Hawk shots.

Harrison drops to 2-11-4 overall.

Raiders win city basketball crown

Let's see. Harrison won the mythical city championship in tennis. They haven't run the city meet in cross country yet and there isn't a city championship in football anymore.

North Farmington won it in swimming. North Farmington won it in golf. Hmm, looks like three city championships for North.

The Raiders' girls' basketball team romped to the Farmington city championship last Tuesday night, beating Farmington High, 65-43. They had defeated Harrison earlier this season, 46-20.

Sophomore Lalina Shaw and senior Amy Austin combined for 43 points (21 each) to pace North. Suzanne Howley added 10.

"They just had the better players," said Farmington coach Bruce Brown.

"We just got beat by a better team."

North raced out to a 23-11 lead in the first quarter. By the time the fourth quarter rolled around, it was 47-26.

Farmington's dynamic duo, Alyse Fortune and Rhonda Lancaster, scored 21 and 19 points respectively. Fortune was limited to just four points in the first half.

"We were real conscious of her," said Raider coach Greg Grodzicki of Fortune. "I thought we did a good job on her."

Austin, aside from her 21 points, pulled down 11 rebounds. Lisa Mummert also played a key role for the Raiders with six steals and four assists.

The Raiders, who earned honorable mention in the coaches association's basketball rankings in Class A, are 12-1 on the season and on top of the Northwest Suburban League standings.

The Falcons are now 2-11.

CANTON 36, HARRISON 26: The Hawks came close again, but alas, their record fell to 0-14.

It was a five-point ballgame until the very end, when the Chiefs pulled away.

"We went to a slowdown and stayed with them," said Harrison coach Gary Sine. "Their free throw shooting kept them ahead of us."

Karen Sklar scored eight and Janine Whitemore added six for Harrison. Canton's Laura Darby led all scorers with 10.

Agatha tops St. Al's, Mercy rips Borgess

Freshman Maryanne Kick's jumper at the buzzer Tuesday gave Redford St. Agatha an upset 35-35 girls' basketball victory over division leader Dearborn St. Alphonsus.

It was only the Aggies' third win of the season.

Junior Tia Littlejohn scored 11 points for the winners, while Kick added nine.

Julie Lopez of St. Alphonsus led all scorers with 20 points.

"The team is really young, but tonight it looked like they did the kind of things that I've been teaching them," said Agatha coach Jim Murphy. "We really played tough tonight. We used a 2-3 match-up zone, and I think we took them out of their game."

MERCY 43, BISHOP BORGESS 22: The defending state Class A champs

Please turn to Page 3

Half past December is no time to start your tax swapping.

At Kidder, Peabody, we earnestly recommend that you get started now, to take full advantage of every tax strategy open to you. Getting caught in the December deadline squeeze cuts down your "shopping" time, forces hasty decisions and confines you to the market of the moment. By planning and executing in advance, you can use this time to upgrade the stocks or bonds in your portfolio, to convert paper profits, or to take advantage of paper losses.

A Kidder, Peabody Registered Representative can be especially helpful. They know how to draw on the resources of our many specialists in common and preferred stock as well as tax-exempt and corporate bonds. They're wired into more than 60 U.S. offices and overseas money capitals in the Kidder, Peabody network. And they are backed by one of the largest and most respected research staffs in the investment industry. Most importantly, they can integrate our total investment expertise into a plan that is aimed at limiting your tax exposure.

A few minutes' conversation can outline some of the tax swapping ideas worth exploring for you...in confidence, of course. Mail the coupon, and we'll telephone at your convenience.

Kidder, Peabody & Co., INCORPORATED
Founded 1851
 Member New York and American Stock Exchanges

3290 West Big Beaver Road
 Troy, MI 48064
 Tel: (313) 649-5700

— 60 additional offices worldwide —

I am interested in discussing the advantages of tax swapping:
☐ Common Stocks ☐ Preferred Stocks ☐ Corporate Bonds ☐ Tax-Free Municipals

Please call me between _____ and _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Bus. phone _____

Member SIPC