

Sports

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Hawks end season in style

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

The score was Farmington Harrison 28, Monroe 0 late in the game when the announcement was made. Fraser had defeated Warren Cousino.

A cheer, perhaps the loudest of the afternoon, rose from the chilled Hawk bleachers. "One more, one more," was the chant among the Hawk players. If Birmingham Groves could upset Birmingham Seaholm Saturday night, Harrison would sneak into the state Class A playoffs.

Do you believe in magic?



Bob Wasczenski caught seven passes for 167 yards and a TD last Saturday against Monroe.

football

Harrison junior quarterback Vince Enright felt the magic Saturday against the highly touted Monroe Trojans. Enright, making only his second start of the season, completed 12 of 21 passes for a record 233 yards and two touchdowns.

Senior receiver Bob Wasczenski caught seven Enright flings, good for 164 yards and a touchdown.

JOHN MILLER, playing with a painful hip-pointer injury most of the second half, gained 103 yards on 16 carries. He ran for two touchdowns and caught a pass for a third. He also picked off two Monroe passes.

"We worked on some things during the week that we were pretty sure would work," Harrison coach John Hittington said afterwards. "And everything worked. The kids executed very well."

What he was most proud of was the defense. The shutout, the Hawks' sixth this season, helped the Harrison defense establish a record for fewest points given up in a season — 28.

Against Monroe, the defense yielded just 128 total yards and forced six turnovers. Wasczenski, Ken Hixon, and Miller (2) all had interceptions, while Jeff Shoroff and Rob Smigelski recovered fumbles.

Harrison (9-1) took control of the game from their first offensive series. On second down, Enright connected with Wasczenski deep over the middle good for 44 yards. Wasczenski fumbled the ball, but Miller, hustling down field to throw a block, scooped up the ball and tackled on another five yards. Monroe was then hit with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Harrison had it first-and-10 at the Monroe 14. Three plays later, Miller cashed in from the two. Dave Quarles added the first of his four extra points on the day.

LATE IN THE first quarter, Smigelski pounced on a fumble by Monroe quarterback Dave Jenkins

at the Hawks' 44. Enright, on the first play, faded back as if to pass. Players and coaches on the Monroe sideline shouted, "Pass, pass." But Enright gave the ball to Miller on a draw play and the powerful junior went 56 yards for the score.

Magic.

Harrison surprised everyone by trying an on-side kick on the ensuing kickoff. That is, it fooled everyone but Monroe's 5-11, 207-pound lineman Don Madison.

He picked up the short kick and rumbled all the way to the Harrison 29. The Hawk defense, led by Jerry Elzen, Scott Novis and Dave Delekta, stopped the Trojans on the 15.

Harrison made it 21-0 right before the half. After Shoroff recovered a fumble at the Hawk 37, Enright connected with Wasczenski once and tight end Steve Orsini twice. That set up a picture perfect pass to Miller for a 37-yard TD.

"We had some special passes that we put in for this game," Enright said. "That pass was one of them."

THE SECOND HALF was a pretty sloppy affair, marred by mistakes and penalties. Monroe had the ball inside Harrison territory four out of its five second-half possessions but could muster just one first down.

Monroe's best scoring chance occurred in the third quarter. The Trojans got to the Hawk 14. On a third-and-7 play, Shoroff made a diving deflection of a Jenkins' pass. Then on fourth down, Hixon batted down a Jenkins' aerial.

The Hawks completed the scoring in the fourth quarter. Enright, rushed out of the pocket, lobbed the ball high in the direction of Wasczenski. Wasczenski out-jumped two Trojan defenders and broke free for a 55-yard TD.

Hawk magic.

As of 5:30 Saturday night, the Hawks still had an outside shot at a playoff berth. Their hopes resting on the on-again, off-again Groves team. What if they don't make it? John Miller put it best:

"Hey, we had a good season. As far as I'm concerned, we're still No. 1 in the state. That's all I can say."



North's Brian Hood (No. 33 white) leaps high to deflect a Tim Berry (No. 10) pass intended for Ken Waker. North beat Farmington Saturday 29-13.

North defense puts clamp on Falcons

The North Farmington football team, co-champions of the Northwest Suburban League, ended their title season by pounding Farmington 29-13 Saturday.

It was not a pretty affair, turnovers and penalties marring the play. The difference in the game, according to North coach Jim O'Leary, was his defense.

"We came at them with a swarming defense and we hit hard," he said. "The kids played great team defense all season."

The numbers will back him up. Farmington rushed the ball 27 times for 19 yards. The Falcons completed seven passes for 59 yards. North has given up just two second-half touchdowns all season.

O'Leary singled out the play of Rob Benda and Tom Spahn on defense. "Benda was our leading point-getter on defense and Spahn has been our leader all season," he said.

FARMINGTON SCORED FIRST. After a North fumble, quarterback Tim Berry connected with Ab Hazen for a 15-yard touchdown. Sophomore kicker Bruce Kratt added the point after.

North tied it with 20 seconds left in the first half. Quarterback Eric Engel

pitched to back Scott Draper who in turn threw the ball to Mickey Ruel for a 36-yard touchdown. Spahn added the point after.

"I guess we were sky high last week and we came out flat in the first half this week," O'Leary said. "But the kids played a real good second half."

The Raiders rattled off 15 quick third-quarter points. Halfback Ken Goss got three going on an 18-yard run. Then Spahn scored on a six-yard run. Ruel hit Scott Knoll for a two-point conversion.

All of a sudden, North was up 22-7. They made it 29-7 in the fourth quarter on a two-yard run by Brian Hood. Spahn again converted the point after.

FARMINGTON GOT six points back when Don Hannah recovered a blocked punt in the end zone.

Spahn, who has been selected the NSL's outstanding back in a poll of coaches, gained 92 yards in just eight carries. Goss added 84 in 19 carries. Engel completed 10 of 13 passes. North amassed 128 yards total via the pass.

North finishes with a 6-3 record. Farmington, under coach Don Kuick, ends at 2-7.

Mercy tops Northwestern in OT

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Just as the memory of the 1982 girls Class A state basketball championship began to fade, Farmington Our Lady of Mercy gave its fans a fresh thrill Saturday night.

day night.

The Marlinas trailed by eight points at 57 seconds left to play against the No. 1-rated team in the state, Flint Northwestern. Defying belief, Mercy tied the game and then won it in overtime, 51-48, all in front of a frenzied

SRO crowd stacked to the rafters in the Mercy gym.

The comeback was all too reminiscent of Mercy's miraculous 19-point comeback in last year's Class A final against another Flint team — Northwestern.

"I think the reason we are good at it (comebacks)," said Mercy coach Larry Baker, "is that the individuals on this team simply refuse to quit."

THE SITUATION for Mercy looked bleak. The team entered the second half trailing by a point, 42-41, and needed to commit 10 turnovers in the next eight minutes. After three quarters, it was Northwestern 39-29.

Northwestern was rolling on the strength of the dead-eye shooting of Tony Edwards. Edwards hit eight of 16 shots on the night, most from long range.

With 4:02 left in the game, Edwards fouled out. Mercy trailed by six, but couldn't get its offense moving. It remained down by 10, 45-35, with 2:40 left.

Baker inserted reserves Sue Scott and Bev White into the lineup and suddenly this success began to happen.

"I told the girls that I had a game ball to give away it would go to Bev White and Sue Scott because they came in and gave us the kick in the butt we needed," Baker said.

MERCY WAS BACK in the game when Amy DeMatia, who led the Marlinas with 16 points and was a tower of strength on the boards, made three of four free shots in one trip to the line. She hit the front end of a one-and-one.

A Northwestern foul committed between shots gave her two more tries. The two teams traded free throws. With 57 seconds left, Northwestern led 48-40.

That set the stage for Mercy's by-now-patented fantastic finish.

Sarah Bastard hit a pair of free throws to close within six. DeMatia forced a jump ball, won it, and was fouled underneath the Mercy basket with 50 seconds remaining. She made both free throws and pulled the team within four points.

After Mercy's pressure defense forced a turnover, DeMatia hit a big hoop to make it 48-46.

Guard Annette Ruggiero then made the play of the night. In one motion, she stole the inbound pass and flipped the ball behind her back to Terri Ford. Ford sank the tying basket with just 10 seconds left.

Northwestern then raced down the court and missed a jumper. Shanta Burks was fouled in the melee. With one second left, both Burks' free throws circled the rim and rolled away.

Mercy center Mary Rosowski, who had 11 points on the night, made a quick layup in the overtime period and Bastard added a free throw to hand Northwestern its first loss in 16 games this season. Northwestern missed the front ends of three one-and-one free throw attempts in the OT.

And you thought Muhammad Ali made a lot of comebacks.

Shaw-'nough!
Lainna's shot tops GlennBy Chris McCosky
staff writer

Don't blame North Farmington girls' basketball coach Greg Grodzicki if he's feeling just a tinge of deja vu.

You see, last season his team all but wrapped up the Northwest Suburban League title by defeating Westland John Glenn on the next to last game of the season — after being defeated the game before by Livonia Franklin.

History has repeated itself. Thursday night the Raiders, after losing to Franklin Tuesday, earned at least a share of the NSL crown by nipping Glenn 46-45. If the Raiders beat Garden City Thursday, they will win the NSL outright for the second straight year.

"IT WAS LAINNA'S night," said a happy and relieved — Grodzicki afterwards.

He was referring to sophomore guard Lainna Shaw, who led all scorers with 17 points while playing superb defense on Glenn's Michele McCullen. Shaw's long-range jumpers felled the Rockets' 1-2-2 zone defense.

"We played our game," said Rocket coach George Sommerman. "We knew that the outside would be there for them. Lainna just shot unbelievably."

Shaw scored nine points in a frantic fourth quarter that saw the lead change 10 times. Shaw's jumper with 23 seconds left gave the Raiders the victory.

MCCULLEN FINISHED with 10 points on the night, but she got into foul trouble and scored just four in the second half.

It was the red-hot shooting of Glenn's Sophie Castonguay that gave North fits and just missed giving the Rockets the win. She ended up with 14 points, eight in the second half.

North hit on just two of their first 14 shots in the game which enabled Glenn to break out on top 9-4. It was 15-8 with 5:38 left in the first half.

At that point Amy Austin, North's leading scorer who Glenn successfully kept bottled up for most of the game, hit her first bucket. Then she made a steal and dropped in a layup. Then she hit another long jumper.

Then she forced two more Glenn turnovers which resulted in two Lisa Mummert baskets and a tie game.

The score was tied 29-29 at the half. North built up a six-point lead in the third quarter before Castonguay led a Glenn surge which saw them score seven unanswered points at the end of the quarter.

THAT SET UP a scintillating fourth-quarter finish.

Austin, who finished with 10 points, four steals and 11 rebounds, scored four quick points to start the fourth quarter. She was answered with hopes by Glenn's Julie Pucci and Castonguay.

North went ahead 35-34 on a Shaw jumper with 4:46 to play. Pucci tied it 31 seconds later.

Pucci bucket and a free throw by Dorez. Glenn led 41-40 with 1:57 left.

ENTER SUZANNTONE. Suzanne Howley, affectionately named Suzanntone — as in Antoine Joubert — by the North fans, hauled in two clutch offensive rebounds and converted them into hoops. The unheralded North center scored 10 points and grabbed 13 rebounds on the night.

With 50 seconds left, North led 44-43.

MCCullen got the lead back on the Glenn side by canning a jumper. Sommerman wanted a time out after McCullen's hoop but his team didn't see him.

"That really cost us," Sommerman said. "I wanted the time out right after we scored. We still had the lead."

But North hustled the ball up the floor. Mummert, who had 10 assists and four steals, fed the ball into the corner to Shaw who tried to drive the ball behind her back to Terri Ford. She passed back to Mummert, who worked it back around to Shaw. With 23 seconds left, Shaw let fly the winning jumper.

GLENN HAD two more opportunities to pull the game out in the last 20 seconds, but both shots missed the mark.

"We're not world beaters by any means," Grodzicki said. "But we have a lot of poise. We showed that tonight."

Sommerman, on the other end, said that the season was far from over for his team.

"We can't quit. There's a whole other season to be played; the second season — the playoffs. We have to go out and play for pride. These kids have a lot of class," he said. "At least I think they do. We'll see."