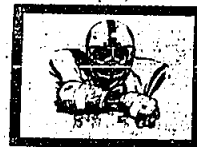


Sports

Chris McCooley, Brad Emons editor/591-2312

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Hawks use all weapons to dismantle Farmington

By Chris McCooley
staff writer

You know the 1984 version of the Farmington Harrison football team is special when usually modest head coach John Herrington pronounces at the beginning of the season, "this is the best football team we've ever had."

The Hawks showed why Herrington is so high on them Saturday, blasting Farmington 42-0 in their home opener.

What sets the '84 Hawks apart from the other great Harrison teams is its multi-dimensional attack. As the Falcons found out, the Hawks can bury you many ways.

One way is with John Miller, the All-American back. He scored three touchdowns, one on a 55-yard punt return, and gained 85 yards on 17 carries. He played half the game.

But that's a weapon the Hawks have seemingly always had.

THE '84 Hawks have another weapon — the passing game. Quarterback Vince Enright, a 6-3, 185-pound senior, busted the Falcons' spirit early in the game with precision passes.

"We just couldn't contain the pass," said Farmington coach Don Kuick. "Enright was on all day. And (wide receiver) Brian Smolinski killed us. We double teamed him, and he still caught the ball on us. We knew they would go to him on the big plays and we couldn't stop it."

Enright, playing less than a half, completed 6-of-8 passes for 144 yards and a touchdown. Smolinski caught five passes for 188 yards. Tight end Brian Saputo caught a 4-yard pass for the Hawks' first score.

But, what makes the offense work is a big, strong and fast offensive line led by 6-3, 210 Dave Delekta, Ben Chen and George Sarcevic.

The Hawks' line was put to the test against the Farmington defensive line. Craig Petramark, 6-2, 206, and John Turcotte, 6-0, 198, are as good as they come.

"Yes, they are a lot stronger and tougher than West Bloomfield was," said Delekta. "They're strong guys. They really came out after us in the second half."

By that time, however, the game was over. The Hawks scored four times in the first half — on their first four possessions.

"We felt that if Farmington was able to jump out on us we'd be in for a tough game," Herrington said. Not a chance. After Saputo's score, the Hawks marched 55 yards in six plays. Two Smolinski catches set up Miller's 7-yard TD run.

THE HAWKS' defense, still another weapon in Herrington's arsenal, would not let Farmington get untracked. The Falcons gained just 23 yards on the ground in the first half and made just one first down — all in all, the Falcons amassed just 65 yards total offense.

The Hawks' third possession of the game lasted about four seconds. Miller took a Jim Zang punt on his own 45-yard line, faked a reverse handoff and darted 55 yards down the west sideline for the score. A crushing block by Mark Mecklenborg sprung him.

Harrison's fourth score was set up by Smolinski's interception of a Joe Westeson pass, and a 14-yard Smolinski pass reception. Miller took it in from the 4.

"I THOUGHT we were ready to play them," said Kuick. "But, we weren't." On their first possession of the second half, the Hawks marched 81 yards

in nine plays. The big play: you guessed it, a 44-yard pass from Enright to Smolinski. Enright also connected with Brian Shottroff for 28 yards. Enright scored the touchdowns on a 1-yard sneak.

The Hawks final score came on third-string quarterback Mike Mack's 5-yard run. Mack set up the score by

connecting with sophomore Scott Bissell on a 41-yard pass play.

Kicker Bill Wood nailed all six extra points.

The Hawks (2-0) were definitely firing on all cylinders Saturday. The improving Falcons (1-1) were simply no match.



Chris Green, the Falcon quarterback, found the going tough against the stingy Harrison defense.

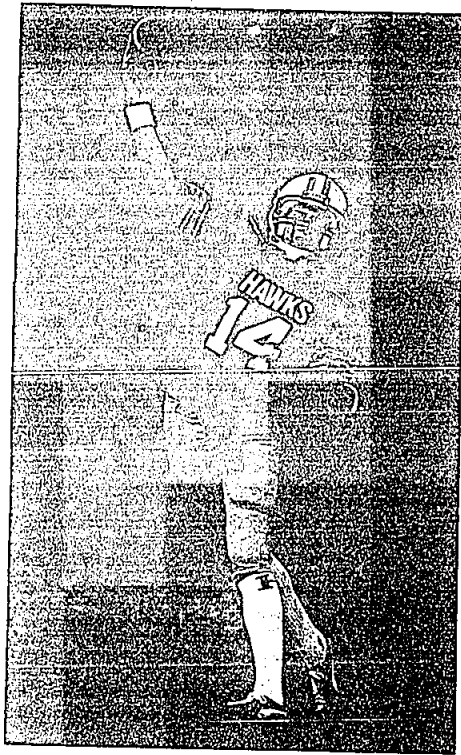


photo by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Hawk quarterback Vince Enright used his rifle-like right arm to propel the Hawks past Farmington. Enright completed six of eight passes for 144 yards.

North 'D' stops Vikes

It was like a heavyweight fight. Two giants standing toe-to-toe, sluggering it out.

When it was over, the giants from North Farmington had outlasted the giants from Wall Lake Central, 14-0.

"Our defense was just incredible," said North head football coach Jim O'Leary after his team's big win Saturday.

The Raiders checked Central on just 118 total yards. Central's Jeff Adams, who rushed for 227 yards last week, was stopped for just 35 yards.

Scott Knoll, an offensive hero last week against Plymouth Salem, was a defensive star for North this week. He made seven

solo tackles, one quarterback sack, forced two fumbles and recovered another.

"The entire defense played well. Give our defensive coach Mark Babcock a lot of credit. We were ready for everything they threw at us," O'Leary said.

KNOLL SET up North's first score by popping Adams and forcing a fumble. Joe Sakofski fell on it at the Central 15. Chris Christman took it in from the 5 — Mike Rudin kicked the extra point — 7-0 North.

The Viking defense was just as stingy as North's, yielding 189 total yards. But, North

connected on a big play in the third quarter to tie the win. Quarterback Eric Engel hit Buddy Pope on a 53-yard scoring pass. Rudin added the 14th point.

"Our defense dominated the game," O'Leary said. "I thought we played well defensively last week, too. Although, Salem scored on three big plays so it doesn't look like we did."

North gave up just four first downs rushing and one passing to the Vikings (1-1).

North (2-0) will begin its Northwest Suburban League schedule next Saturday against Garden City.

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Miracle Marlins do it again

By Chris McCooley
staff writer

Larry Baker has an uncanny knack of putting things into proper perspective.

"I told the girls that is the first time I could honestly say we were simply lucky to win. We won the game with our hearts, not our heads. Frankly, I'm surprised we didn't drop the trophy."

So said the Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy head coach after his team, in typical Mercy fashion, roared back from a 23-point first-half deficit to defeat state-ranked Benton Harbor 65-43 and capture the fourth annual Mercy Hoops Classic Saturday night.

Baker, of course, was half-joking. He gave his team tremendous credit for the amazing comeback — how many teams can overcome such a deficit against a team as solid as Benton Harbor?

The other half of Baker's statement was dead serious. His team came out very flat in the first quarter, falling behind 20-7.

"IT WAS just a matter of not responding to their pressure," he said. "Throughout the game, with the exception of the third quarter, Benton Harbor looked to be the poised team. They were in control and very sure of themselves. While we, on the other hand, couldn't figure out how we were going to shoot a layup, let alone a hard shot like a free throw."

Mercy missed six layups in the first half and hit just 7-of-20 foul shots. Six of the misses were on the front end of one-and-one opportunities. Mercy trailed 43-29 at the half.

Baker will be the last person to take credit for a victory — he would rather the credit go to his players. That's how it should be.

Yet, Saturday night, Larry Baker flatout coached a victory for the Marlins.

The game was marred by fouls — it was a physical, full-court pressing game from the opening tip-off on. While Benton Harbor was rolling up its lead, it was also rolling up the fouls. Mercy, too, was foul-stricken.

Terril Ford, Amy DeMattia and Boy White got into quick foul trouble for Mercy. Veronica Holton, Cindy Goodson, Treva Sanders and All-American Lisa Harvey were in early trouble for the Tigers.

The difference was this: Benton Harbor continued to play its foul-troubled starters, hoping to build an insurmountable lead. Baker, although way behind on the scoreboard, went to his bench. Ford didn't play at all in the second quarter. DeMattia and White alternated.

IT WAS a risky move, but it paid off in the third quarter. A well-rested Ford turned the game around for Mercy.

The junior forward scored 10 points, forced several turnovers and grabbed five rebounds to lead a 19-7 Marlin surge.

"There was no way I was going to be without two of my top six players in the second half," Baker said of his decision to sit Ford in the second quarter.

On the other side, Benton Harbor ended up having three starters foul out, including Harvey, Sanders and starting guard Carolot Taylor.

Soe Scott and Annette Ruggiero were also key figures in the Marlins' comeback. Each was instrumental in forcing Tiger turnovers and poor shots. Scott, in addition to applying defensive pressure, grabbed eight clutch rebounds.

Ruggiero forced a turnover, then scored a layup on the transition to pull Mercy within a point, 57-55 with 4:26 left in the game. Ford made a steal on Benton Harbor's next possession and made a sweet pass to Ruggiero to put Mercy on top for the first time in the game.

BENTON HARBOR forged ahead 63-60 on two Harvey free throws with 2:36 left.

Mercy's all-state senior Mary Rosowski, who was a dominating force in the middle all night, hit one of two free throws to make it 63-61.

Benton Harbor forced up a bad shot with 1:20 to play. Harvey fouled out going after rebound (which was pulled down by Scott).

White, who Harvey fouled, missed the free throw, but Ford got the rebound and banked in what proved to be the winning basket.

The Tigers had two golden opportunities to win the game in the final 32 seconds, but the shots wouldn't go down.

Rosowski led all scorers with 26 points. She also grabbed 10 rebounds. Ford finished with 12 points and eight rebounds, while DeMattia scored 11 points. Ruggiero had nine assists and six points. Scott had six points, four assists and eight rebounds.

Angelique Bell scored 20 points for the Tigers. Harvey had 17 and Sanders 16. Harvey, for the second year in a row was named the tournament's MVP. Rosowski, Ruggiero, Ford and Sanders rounded out the all-tournament team.

In the preliminary games Thursday night, Mercy trounced Brighton, 73-39, and Benton Harbor did the same to Southgate Aquinas, 57-43. Against West Brighton, 53-33, in the consolation game.