

Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editor/591-2312



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Falcons lead Lakes chase

By Scott Adler
staff writer

How about a Farmington-Farmington Harrison matchup for the Western Lakes Activities Association football title?

It sounds crazy, but it just might happen after Farmington took sole possession of first place in the Lakes Division Friday with a 20-7 win at home over Livonia Bentley.

Not even the Falcons' second-year coach Don Kulick could believe his team's first-place status.

"Really? We're in first all alone?" he asked. "No one else is undefeated?"

Farmington relied on a tough defense and a strong running game to hand Bentley its first Lakes Division loss. The Falcons are 3-0 in league play and 4-1 overall. Bentley is 2-1 and 3-2 overall.

Farmington scored first on a 3-yard run by quarterback Chris Green in the second quarter. Green's run capped a 7-minute, 58-yard drive. Bruce Kratt's extra point gave the Falcons a 7-0 lead with 6:32 left in the first half.

BENTLEY CAME OUT throwing in the second half, but Falcon defensive back Jim Laird intercepted a Pat Schneider pass and ran it back 25 yards for a touchdown. The extra point was missed and the Bulldogs trailed 13-0 with 11:09 remaining in the third period.

Bentley put together its only sustained drive of the afternoon late in the third period. Schneider hooked up with Sal Dentillo on a 30-yard pass play that closed the gap to 13-7.

That series, Schneider went 3-for-4 for 61 yards.

The Bulldogs had one last chance pull the game out when they got the ball back on their own 20 yard line with

4:45 left but were forced to punt three plays later.

Green scored from 10 yards out with 22 seconds remaining to finish the scoring.

Bentley coach Steve Naumcheff was disappointed with his team's play, especially at the defensive end of the field.

"WE'RE A defensive-minded ball club and we're embarrassed at the score," Naumcheff said. "We don't like to give points away like that, but they count everything and they beat us."

Naumcheff dismissed star halfback Al Young's ankle injury as the cause of his team's poor offensive showing.

"It makes a difference when your best offensive back is hurt, but that's no excuse," he said. "We were playing with poor field position all day and we lost to a mature team. No excuses, they beat us."

Kulick agreed that Young's injury played a part in his team's victory, but he said it didn't decide the outcome.

"Young is a good ballplayer and they didn't run well against us," he said. "But there were no holes and we put a pretty good rush on (Schneider). It was a big win for us."

It was a complete team effort that gave Farmington the victory, Kulick said.

It was an outstanding effort," he said. "Outstanding blocking, outstanding play by our backfield and line. We played well. We stopped them cold."

The Falcons, who allowed only 7 first downs and 50 yards rushing for the Bulldogs, play Plymouth Canton next Saturday at Farmington and Kulick is expecting a tough battle.

"They're a good ball club," he said. "They're the best 1-3 team in the league."



Every picture tells a story, they say, and this one's no different. Harrison's Brian Smolinski caught this Vince Enright pass, one of his seven catches Friday against Northville, to set up another score.

Hawks magic number: 42

Multi-faceted Harrison destroys Northville

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Farmington Harrison's magic number: 42.

No, that's not how many wins they need to clinch the state title. Rather, it seems to be the margin of Hawk supremacy.

Harrison's 42-0 victory against previously unbeaten Northville Friday afternoon marked the fourth time in five games that the Hawks have won a football game by a 42-point spread.

But how many expected the Hawks to win by a 42-point margin against Northville?

Probably not too many. Yet, from a historic perspective, Harrison has always handled Northville easily. In fact, the Mustangs have not beaten Harrison in their last 17 tries.

"WELL, THEY stopped us on our first drive," said Harrison head coach John Herrington, trying to explain the ease with which his team tore apart its closest competitor in the Western Lakes standings.

"After that we picked off a pass and marched right in. We passed the ball well today. That opened up the run game for us," he said.

Run, pass, defend — there wasn't much the Hawks didn't do well against Northville.

Vince Enright, after a shaky performance against Livonia Churchill, was brilliant. The 6-foot-3 senior quarterback completed 10 of 15 pas-

ses (in three quarters) for 171 yards and two touchdowns.

"I guess I was shown up a little bit by (Churchill quarterback) John Stoltzinski last week," said Enright. "I had to relax. I've had a hard time in the first quarter all year. I just had to go out and pretend it was like practice. I mean, I would just get myself too psyched up before the game. It was like I had to go out and kill someone — and that doesn't make sense."

Enright's favorite target, like in the past four weeks, was Brian Smolinski. The crafty junior, the man who is making many Harrison rooters ask "Bob Wasezenski who?," caught seven Enright aerials for 115 yards. One was a pretty 38-yard scoring play.

"OUR PATTERNS are real good," Smolinski said. "The coaches have put together a nice passing game for us. All I do is run the patterns and Vince hits me."

Moderately is one of the charms of the Hawks. The truth is, any ball Smolinski touches, he catches.

Another Hawk charm is the quick strike. They have a knack for getting on top, then burying the opponents early.

On the Hawk's second possession of the game, they marched 41 yards in eight plays. All-American John Miller rushed for all but 11 of those yards, including the 7-yard TD.

The drive took four minutes to complete. It was to be the longest drive of the day, in terms of time, for

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the Hawks. The other Hawk scoring drives lasted 27 seconds, 54 seconds, 51 seconds and two drives went all of three minutes.

Let's hope they don't ever get into foul trouble and have to stall.

Miller, on Northville's second offensive series, neatly picked off a Dave Denhof pass at the Mustang 46.

Enright hit Smolinski for 10 yards on the first play. On the second, Smolinski caught the 38-yard scoring strike.

After Bill Wood kicked his second straight extra point, it was nearly bedtime for Northville.

On Northville's third offensive possession, Smolinski showed that he can prevent touchdowns as well as score them. First, he made a TD-saving tackle on Northville back Rick VanBuren. VanBuren had burst through the Hawk line and had only Smolinski to beat for six points, but Smolinski nailed him.

Three plays later, he picked off Denhof's pass at the Northville 34 and the fight had all but gone out of the Mustangs.

By the way, Smolinski's jersey number is 42.

MILLER THEN accepted two hand-

doffs. One went for eight yards, the other for 26 and a TD. Jeff Shottroff then ran in the two-point conversion.

Shottroff is one of the many unsung Harrison standouts — playing solid football week after week without much recognition. With 1:28 left in the half, he hauled in Enright's 19-yard pass in the end zone to extend Harrison's lead to 29-0.

Harrison added two more TDs in the second half. Miller scored on a two-yard run after Brian Saputo's 33-yard reception from Enright.

Miller finished his three-quarters day with exactly 100 yards rushing on 16 carries. He scored three touchdowns.

Reserve quarterback Matt Dowd finished the scoring by tossing his second TD pass in two weeks finding Scott Bissell from eight yards out.

Defensive coach Bob Sutter probably smiled for the first time in a week. After his normally stingy defenders yielded 21 points to Churchill last week, Harrison stopped Northville on just 43 yards total offense. All of that yardage was on the ground as Northville didn't complete a pass.

Harrison had three interceptions — the third by Ken Hixson (another of the unsung Hawks).

"We really thought we would shut them down," Herrington said. "We matched up well with their defense."

The win ups Harrison to 5-0. Northville drops to 4-1. So much for show-downs.

North routs RU, takes 5th straight

The North Farmington football team continued its quest for a perfect season with a 37-12 trouncing of Redford Union Friday afternoon in front of its home fans.

The Raiders (5-0) were awesome on offense piling up 342 total yards, including 271 on the ground.

North scored the first 17 points of the game and never looked back. Mike Rued started the scoring barrage for the Raiders with a 15-yard field goal in the first quarter. Then North got serious.

In a half full of big plays, Eric Engel hit Buddy Pope on a 46-yard pass play for a touchdown to give North a 10-0 lead. Scott Knoll showed RU that the Raiders play defense with an 84-yard TD interception return of a Raffi Kostegian pass.

Knoll's run was followed up by Brian Hood's 33-yard touchdown run to give the Raiders a 24-6 advantage at intermission.

THE RAIDERS came out smoking in the second half as well with Chris Christman running 62 yards for one touchdown and Marc Brown going 19

for another.

"We played tough when we had to," North coach Jim O'Leary said. "My kids played well for all four quarters. We made no mental mistakes."

Engel was 4-for-6 for 71 yards and one touchdown. Christman led the Raiders in rushing with 62 yards despite running only one time. Hood and Brown rushed for 38 and 57 yards, respectively, to round out an awesome ground game for North.

"RU keyed on Brown and so ran everything else at them," O'Leary said. "What we did today is score every time we got inside the 50."

O'Leary said he was happy with his defense, led by linebackers Troy Hiner and Knoll, although North gave up its first two rushing touchdowns of the season.

Halfback Don Angel scored for RU on TD runs of 40 and 11 yards. He led all rushers with 153 yards. Kostegian passed for 190 yards.

North continued its hold on first place in the Northwest Suburban League, raising its record to 3-0. Redford Union dropped to 1-4 overall, 1-2 in league play.

Blanchard fights to stay ahead of the pack

By Tom Henderson
staff writer

When Charlie Blanchard works out, he doesn't mess around. "Interesting" is the word he uses to describe some of his more strenuous workouts, though other words like "mind-boggling" might more accurately apply.

For example, when Blanchard, who owns the string of Total Runner stores in Southfield and the metropolitan area, wants a stiff workout, you know what he does? He bikes 100 miles at 20 miles an hour and follows immediately with a 20 mile run at under seven minutes a mile — all of which takes about eight hours.

When you're king of the hill, you either fight to stay there or you let people push you off. Blanchard, the king of the masters' division of the triathlon hill, is fighting hard.

Blanchard is now in Hawaii for the

legendary Ironman Triathlon, which, in grueling tropical heat, combines a 2.4-mile ocean swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile run — the events coming in succession without a break.

Blanchard, 42, has been the leading triathlete in the Northwest Suburban League, raising its record to 3-0. Redford Union dropped to 1-4 overall, 1-2 in league play.

Blanchard got in that condition — he weighs 147 pounds, 33 fewer than he weighed as a high school football player in Ohio — by a training regimen that would make a Marine quit. During the peak training months of August and September, a routine week of training took up from 30-34 hours in workout time, encompassing 70 miles of running, 350-300 miles of biking, and 12,000-14,000 yards of swimming.

people in sports

Several times, to prepare himself for the ordeal in Hawaii, Blanchard biked hard for 100 miles and then ran hard for 20 more.

"Those were interesting workouts," said Blanchard. "That's a workout I never would have imagined two years ago."

He has two 100-mile courses, leaving from his home in Birmingham and taking back roads to Flint and back, or going from home out to Brighton and Howell and back.

HIS FITNESS isn't the only thing that has improved — better sponsorship, equipment and coaching to help

shave some of those 48 minutes he's seeking.

For example, Continental Bike Shop of Hazel Park has furnished Blanchard with a state-of-the-art bike valued at \$2,000 and weighing just 17 pounds, half that of the average 10 speed.

The coaching is from Mike Walden, an internationally respected Olympic development coach, while the sponsorship comes from Vic Tanny International.

But despite the best training, coaching and assistance, much of Blanchard's performance will be a function of the weather. Last year, 35 mph headwinds actually blew some bikers right to the ground, and every year surface temperatures on the black lava bike course approach 130 degrees until a noon-time sun.

"You have to force yourself to drink fluids, a quart every five or 10 miles when you're on your bike," said Blanch-

ard. "It's like constantly pouring water into a sponge and it comes right out of the pores. If you stop perspiring, it's all over. It's the medical vehicle for you."

From the bike, you don running shoes and head out again for a marathon run. "It's the only event where you start a marathon hoping you can recover mid-way through it," chuckled Blanchard.

"And you can recover. You start feeling terrible and you muddle through at the beginning. Every year I run the second half of the marathon faster than I ran the first half."

Blanchard normally can relax a bit after the Ironman. Not this year. He is deeply involved with a Chicago firm to franchise his Total Runner stores. The filing work isn't completed in the various states, but Blanchard expects the first franchise to open early in 1985. He plans to operate in the Midwest, as well as in Pennsylvania, Florida, Texas, California and, of course, Hawaii.