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Monday, November 19, 1984 O&amp;E

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# Hawks' bid falls 1 game short

## Tough Fordson defense leaves Harrison 'O' stuck in the mud

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

After the game, the Dearborn Fordson defensive players paid their respects to Farmington Harrison All-American John Miller. During the game, they banged, battered and bruised him.

Perhaps even in their moment of triumph they sensed the cruelly sport sometimes inflicted. A savage Fordson defense brought an end to Miller's brilliant high school football career, one step shy of the only goal he had left to accomplish.

Fordson defeated Harrison 9-7 Saturday on a slippery, muddy field at Pontiac Wines Stadium, in the semifinals of the state Class A playoffs.

Fordson now will compete in the match Miller wanted so desperately for his team — against Ann Arbor Pioneer

*'They destroyed the timing on our pass plays and they successfully stopped our running game. It was just super preparation on their part.'*

— John Herrington  
Harrison coach

in the state Class A championship Saturday at the Pontiac Silverdome.

MILLER, WHO gained more than 4,000 yards rushing in his three years at Harrison, was stuffed on just 58 in his final game.

"We knew we had to stop Miller," said Fordson coach Charlie Jestice. "He's a great player. But when they get

into trouble, naturally, they're going to give it to him.

"We just played our regular game, with emphasis on stopping Miller, that No. 42 (Brian Smolinski) and (quarterback Vince) Enright."

The Fordson defense stopped all three and, consequently, the Harrison offense. The Hawks, who averaged more than 40 points per game all season, gained just 135 yards all night.

"They played real tight on our receivers and were bumping them on the line," said Harrison coach John Herrington. "It seemed like we were throwing behind the receivers all game. They destroyed the timing on our pass plays and they successfully stopped our running game. It was just super preparation on their part."

The Fordson defense, namely David Gais and Jeff Scherzer, completely shut down the Hawks in the second half. Harrison made just two first downs in the half and had the ball just a little more than six minutes.

"They really did outplay us in the second half," Herrington said. "We just couldn't get the ball. We dodged the bullet twice. They were bound to cash in sooner or later, I guess."

FORDSON SCORED first — a feat no other team accomplished against Harrison this season.

Tractor quarterback Mike Iaquinello, who was 11 of 24 for 192 yards on the day, hit Dan McDougall on a 66-yard TD pass. It was Fordson's third play of the game.

Harrison's George Sarcevic, however, blocked the point after try. Harrison's lone scoring drive was set up by sophomore Scott Bissell's inter-



photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Harrison All-American John Miller is consoled after his high school football career ended on a

and note Saturday when Dearborn Fordson edged the Hawks, 9-7, in the Class A semifinals.

ception. The Hawks, on a smartly engineered drive by Enright, marched 61 yards in 10 plays. Enright passed for 54 of those yards, hitting Jeff Shettriff from the 6 for the score.

Enright completed 7 of 24 passes for 77 yards on the day.

Mark Mecklenborg's kick put Harrison ahead 7-6.

The Hawks appeared in excellent position to add to their lead before the end of the half.

DAVE DELEKTA sacked Iaquinello in the Fordson end zone for what appeared to be a safety. But the referee correctly ruled that Iaquinello's forward motion stopped at the 1.

On fourth down, Harrison was flagged for roughing the punter in the end zone, nullifying a chance to get the ball inside Fordson territory.

Fordson owned the second half, but the Harrison defense wasn't easily broken.

John Janowicz, who rushed for 106 yards, put Fordson in a position to score early in the second half. He busted free on a 49-yard run down to the Harrison 14. Bissell's diving tackle saved a TD.

A key sack by Jason Talbert forced Fordson to settle for a field goal try. The field goal was never attempted. Fordson was flagged for a false start, taking them out of field goal range, and the fourth-down pass missed its mark. One bullet dodged.

THE TRACTORS then marched down to the Harrison 15, but Kamal Salame missed on a 33-yard field goal try with 6:28 left.

"Two bullets dodged. Harrison needed just to hold onto the football. On a crucial third-and-2 from the 41, Miller was stopped cold by Gais.

Fordson deftly marched the ball down to the Harrison 1. With 1:31 left

in the game, Jestice was faced with a fourth-and-goal situation. He sent Salame onto the field. The junior made no mistake from 19 yards out.

The third bullet found the Hawks' heart.

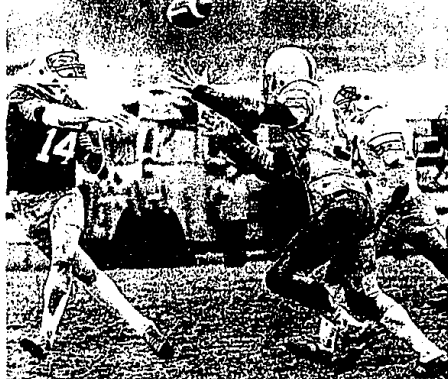
In the final 1:28, Harrison tried four passes. All four missed.

Fordson avenged the 1982 loss to the Hawks in the state championship. And the Tractors deserved to celebrate. They have been to the playoffs five years and in the previous four appearances lost to the eventual state champ.

The win over Harrison ranks high among Jestice's 200-plus victories at Fordson.

"They've all been so nice. We've had a lot of great teams and this ranks right up there with the great victories," he said.

Comparatively, it also ranks highly on the Hawks' short list of frustrating losses — probably a notch below a certain 15-12 loss to Livonia Churchill.



Senior Vince Enright gets off a roll-out pass, while the Fordson defenders close in on the Harrison quarterback.

# Tractors' offensive attack more than a passing fancy

By Jim Hughes  
staff writer

There was a time — not very long ago — when the only football airborne at Dearborn Fordson was one the game officials tossed among themselves.

The school's moniker, the Tractors, was fitting. Fordson would grind out the yardage on the ground with a plethora of bruising running backs. The change to an aerial attack, however, has increased over the past three

years, and it's now more than a passing fancy.

Farmington Hills Harrison got wind of Fordson's grasp of aerology Saturday when the Tractors went upstairs to upset the top-ranked Hawks, 9-7, in the semifinals of the Class A state playoffs at Pontiac's Wines Stadium.

THE FORDSON hero was junior quarterback Mike Iaquinello, who threw a 66-yard touchdown pass to Dan McDougall in the first-quarter and who

engineered the game-winning drive late in the fourth quarter which set up a 19-yard field goal by Kamal Salame.

"We just tried to do whatever it was going to take," Fordson coach Charlie Jestice took. "We thought we could throw against them. We wanted to throw and run against them, whatever would work."

It was the pass that worked most. Neither team had much success on the ground — save for a 49-yard run by Fordson's John Janowicz — and the

Tractors won the battle for the airwaves.

Iaquinello completed 11 of 24 passes for 192 yards. His most successful pass was the 66-yarder to McDougall. On Fordson's third offensive play of the game, Iaquinello threaded a pass to McDougall, who found a seam in the Harrison secondary and raced untouched to the end zone.

"We felt we could pass down the middle against them," McDougall said. "We were confident we could pass on

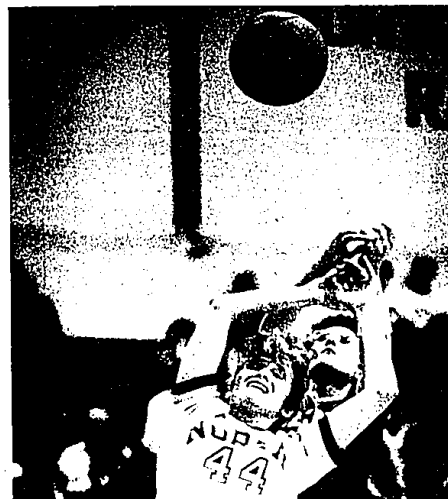
that team. It (the touchdown play) was great. This was a big game for me, and the first time I've been in a game like this."

HARRISON HAS faced some strong passing teams this year, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Stevenson and Birmingham Seaholm, but Fordson was the only squad to inflict this much damage.

"They threw the ball well," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "We fell

down a few times. I don't know what happened. I thought they'd have to throw because I knew we'd stop them on the ground. We couldn't stop the pass."

Harrison wasn't totally baffled by Fordson's passing game. Sophomore defensive back Scott Bissell turned in a big play in the second quarter with a diving interception of an Iaquinello pass. The play set up Harrison's only touchdown of the afternoon.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

North's Isaly Butters (44) and Glenn's Cheryl Dozier (pictured above in a game earlier this season) battled for the final time this year Thursday.

# Rockets' redwoods top North

## Glenn avenges early loss, gains title share

By C.J. Riak  
staff writer

The overachievers caught the favorites, but couldn't pass 'em.

In a game with little consequences, Westland John Glenn led for all but a minute, staving off one North Farmington run after another and finally claiming a 50-41 homecourt victory Thursday.

The triumph meant that John Glenn, the preseason favorite to win the Northwest Suburban League (NSL) girls basketball crown, realized half that goal. The Rockets finished 8-2 in the NSL, tied with Livonia Franklin. Franklin bounced Redford Union 78-12 Thursday.

Greg Grodzicki, the North Farmington coach, knew before the opening tip what was coming. "We're going to have to deal with their size," he said during pre-game warm-ups.

THAT SIZE — Glenn's starters stand 6-foot-1, 8-foot, 5-11, 5-11 and 5-8½ — made the difference. North battled on the boards valiantly, refusing to allow the Rockets redwoods to take charge.

But defensively, Glenn's height was too great an advantage. The Raiders tried to get the ball inside, but the results were often disastrous. Glenn, sitting in a 1-2-2 zone, blocked shot after shot, which left North relying on outside jumpers.

That was very nearly enough, considering the superb play of Lisa Mummert. Mummert, at 5-5 the smallest player on the court, weaved through the Glenn defense and pumped in a game-high 18 points, many from long range.

"That was one of the best games of her career," said Grodzicki. But in the end, the coach of the team many felt would finish last in the NSL knew what the difference was. "We couldn't score against those big girls. We just weren't getting a good shot."

WHILE MUMMERT did the bulk of the scoring for North, Glenn was able to spread it around. Julie Pucci did the quarterbacking, passing off for 5 assists, while Cheryl Dozier and Michele McCullen had 4 apiece.

The Rockets expanded an 11-7 lead

### NSL BASKETBALL 1984 FINAL STANDINGS

c-Livonia Franklin	8-2
c-Westland John Glenn	8-2
N. Farmington	7-3
Redford Union	4-6
Garden City	4-6
Red. Thurston	1-9
c-co-champs	

after one quarter to 23-13 on Jennifer Okon's basket with 3:58 left in the half. But North, which was close only because of Mummert's dead-eye outside shooting — she had 10 of North's 13 points, all on long jumpers — rolled off a 10-2 streak to close to within 25-23 at the intermission.

Eight straight points, 4 by Dozier, gave the Rockets a 34-25 advantage with 3:05 left in the third quarter. North closed to within 5 points (38-31) going into the final quarter and tied it at 38-all on a spectacular play by Mummert.

With 7 minutes left, Pucci's shot was blocked and Mummert grabbed the loose ball. The speedy guard raced downcourt, step-for-step with Dozier and put up an off-balance layup that

rolled in. Mummert drew the foul from Dozier and sank the free throw to tie it.

BUT AS FAST as the rally started — North had scored 7 straight — it ended. Glenn poured in 9 uninterrupted points in a 3-minute span, with McCullen getting the final 4, to put the game out of reach.

"Was I nervous?" Glenn coach George Sommerman repeated. "No I wasn't nervous. My hands were shaking, my palms were sweating, I had acid indigestion, an upset stomach, dandruff and athlete's foot all at once."

"No, I wasn't nervous." The Glenn coach, whose team is now 17-2, added, "Dozier played her best ball game tonight. She's been reluctant to shoot. Tonight she shot and she made them."

Indeed she did. Dozier finished with 14 points. Okon had 13 and McCullen 10, including 6 in the final quarter. Stacy Graham grabbed 10 rebounds and McCullen made four steals.

Heather McPhillips and Sue Shifra added 7 points apiece to North's attack. The Raiders finished their regular season at 14-6.