

Sports

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Recruiting war heats up over Miller

By Brad Emons
staff writer

It's to nobody's surprise that Farmington Harrison's John Miller is Observerland's most heavily recruited football player.

The state's No. 1 blue-chipper is being courted by five major college football powers. It appears that Michigan State and Michigan have the inside track. The all-purpose back, however, has already visited Ohio State and Penn State and plans on seeing Pittsburgh before the Wednesday, Feb. 13, signing date.

Because of his abilities on and off the

football field, Miller has been getting a lot of attention lately.

MSU coach George Perles and Detroit Tiger Kirk Gibson paid a visit to one of Miller's basketball games last week. Michigan coach Bo Schembechler, meanwhile, flew in by helicopter to see Miller practice, courtesy of Tiger owner Tom Monaghan.

After Miller, the talent around Observerland drops off somewhat, but two unheralded area players rate as "sleepers."

Left off the first-team All-Observer squad this season were Redford Bishop Borgess running back Fred Owens and Catholic Central tackle Eric Hetke, but

football

both have drawn a number of scholarship offers from Division I schools.

OWENS, WHO made first-team All-Area as a junior, played only three games this season before going down with a knee injury.

But the 5-foot-10, 180-pound speed merchant is being pursued by Boston College, Stanford, Wisconsin and Rice. An outside possibility, too, is the Air

Force Academy, according to his high school coach Gary Cook.

"Even though Fred missed most of the season there's a still a lot of interest," Cook said. "They all know he can become a good college back."

Hetke, meanwhile, received few post-season honors this year at CC, but such colleges as Indiana, Bowling Green and Central Michigan have knocked at his door.

"They like Eric's size (5-5, 240) and his speed (4.8 in the 40-yard dash)," said CC coach Tom Mach. "Indiana came in and liked what they saw. They made him an offer right away."

Meanwhile, three other members of Harrison's outstanding football team appear headed toward the Mid-American Conference.

DAVE DELEKTA, a lineman, has already committed to Central Michigan. Another Harrison lineman, George Sarovich, is reportedly leaning toward Miami of Ohio, but hasn't ruled out Michigan State yet. Vance Enright, the Hawks' All-Area quarterback, has

received a scholarship offer from Eastern Michigan.

Plymouth Salem wide receiver Craig Morton has been offered full rides by three MAC schools: CMU, EMU and Toledo. The first-team All-Observer pick has also gotten looks from Wisconsin and New Mexico State.

The Great Lakes Conference, which features Division II schools such as Wayne State, should have commitments from a number of area players. Ivy League schools should also pick up a few along with the non-scholarship-tending Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA).

Hawk defense chokes Chiefs

By C.J. Rileak
staff writer

And you thought the weather was cold. You should have seen Plymouth Canton's football team Friday night.

Cold? Nah — Farmington Harrison's shooters were cold. They hit just 19 of 46 floor shots, a meager .413 percent. Canton's offensive performance signaled the coming of another ice age.

The Ice Man Cometh? Heck, he drove the Canton bus to Harrison.

THE FINAL score was Harrison 44, Canton 29. But don't be misled: The front-running Hawks had this one wrapped up by the end of the third quarter, despite their own offensive ineffectiveness.

With 3:45 to go in the fourth quarter, Harrison led 38-13. That's right — in more than 3½ quarters of play the Chiefs could muster only 13 points. For the game they hit 12 of 36, just 315 percent. Only their late scoring flurry (16 points in the final 3:45) pushed it that high.

"I'm embarrassed," said Canton coach Dave Van Wagoner. "If you've ever been embarrassed you know how I feel."

"I take a lot of pride in what I do, then they go out and play like this. Offensively, we need someone to step in and take charge. We're not getting that."

TAKE NOTHING away from Harrison and its suffocating defense. The Hawks — led by senior guard Ken Hixson's 6 steals — made it difficult for Canton to complete a pass, much less make a basket.

The Chiefs had more turnovers — 32 — than points.

"We played awfully good defense," said Harrison coach Mike Teachman. "Can you see how important Ken Hixson is to my team? He's made plays no other human has made yet."

What Teachman preaches in practice is that "defense creates offense." It did for the Hawks Friday, but all too often they couldn't finish the play. Harrison gave the ball back to Canton with 26 turnovers, so their offensive play wasn't so sparkling, either.

But it was better than the Chiefs. Ken George canned 3 straight long jumpers over the Canton zone in the opening quarter to help Harrison to a 13-5 lead.

IN THE SECOND quarter, Harrison made just 1 of 10 floor shots — and still led 18-9, because Canton was good on only 2 of 8.

An 8-0 Harrison spurt to start the third quarter put the Hawks in charge, 24-9. Joel Mica's basket earned Canton its 10th and 11th points — with 3:27 left in the period. The Chiefs were 2 of 9 from the field in the third, bringing

their total at that point to 8 of 28.

Leading scorers were hard to find: John Miller finished with 12 points and 3 assists for Harrison, with George Sarovich 8 points and dishing out 4 assists. Vance Enright collected 7 points, 13 boards and 3 steals.

The leader for Canton was Matt Levesque, who came off the bench to hit consecutive 3-point plays in the final 2 minutes. He had 6 for the game.

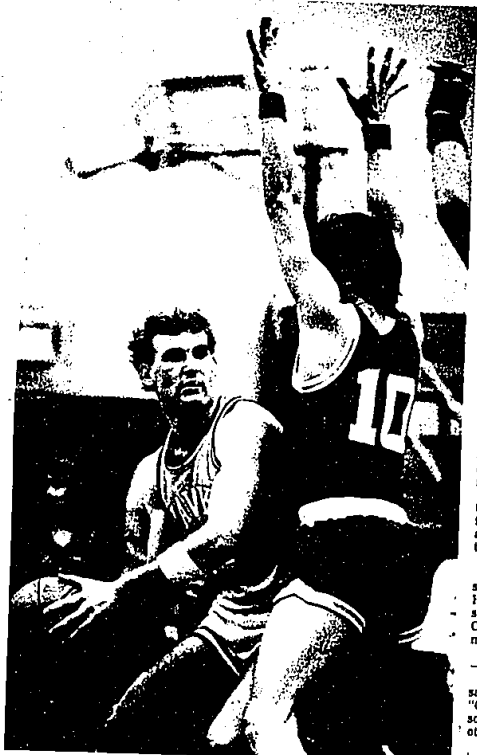
HOWEVER it looked — as Teachman described it, "The guys in the stands in togas were dressed appropriately." — it was another win for Harrison.

The Hawks are starting to make a mockery of the Western Lakes Activities Association (WLAA) Western Division race. They're 8-1, 3 games up on second-place Livonia Churchill.

Canton is 3-7 overall and 2-5 in the WLAA, having lost its last 5 games. So is Teachman starting to look ahead to that tough WLAA tournament?

"Nope," he answered, grinning. "Not after losing a few here the last couple of years. I'm going to enjoy this."

Which proves victory is sweet, whatever flavor the performance.



John Miller, with ball, scored 12 points to lead Farmington Harrison past Western Lakes Western Division rival Plymouth Canton Friday.

photos by DAN DEAN/staff photographer



Harrison coach Mike Teachman watches the action Friday night along with point guard Ken George.

North stays in NSL hunt

Rick Anderson notched 20 points and grabbed 16 rebounds Friday to power visiting North Farmington to a 68-48 Northwest Suburban League (NSL) basketball win over Livonia Franklin.

The win gives North a 3-2 record in league play. The Raiders are 9-3 overall.

Anderson, a 6-foot-5 junior, led a 19-11 second quarter run as North broke away from a narrow 2-point first quarter lead.

The Raiders then outscored Franklin 12-4 in the third quarter to break the

game wide open.

Bob Chwalik and Mike Rudin added 12 and 11 points, respectively, for the winners.

Tim McGilvery netted 11 and Mark Kerpet tallied 10 for the Patriots, who dropped to 1-7 overall and 1-4 in NSL play.

FARMINGTON 55, DEARBORN 49: The Falcons overcame an 18-9 first quarter deficit Friday to post the non-league win over Dearborn.

Bruce Kraitt and Bill Robinson each

scored 11 points for the winners, now 5-5 overall. Greg Feenstra chipped in with 10.

Dearborn's Scott Mason led all scorers with 15.

Trailing 30-25 at the half, Farmington began to find the range in the final two quarters of play, outscoring the Patriots, 30-21.

"We played better defense in the second half," said Farmington coach Rich Roy. "It wasn't anything different. We just decided it would work."

McIntyre's 46 guns down Bishop Borgess

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

John McIntyre stole the ball at the Bishop Borgess free throw line. As he crossed halfcourt the Catholic Central crowd rose in unison.

"Dunk, dunk, dunk," they chanted. McIntyre began his ascent toward the basket maybe two or three feet inside the free throw line. He reached the apex of his leap and the rim simultaneously. With two Borgess players pestering, John McIntyre, to the absolute delight of the jam-packed Borgess gym, slammed the ball through the hoop and was fouled.

It was the icing on Redford Catholic Central's 93-75 whipping of cross-town Catholic League rival Borgess Friday night.

It was also the icing on what may have been McIntyre's finest all-around performance as a prep. He scored 46 points (draining 20 of 30 shots, 67 percent), 2 by of Rob Gonzalez's CC record of 48. He also dished 4 assists, made 5 steals, blocked 3 shots and grabbed (according to CC stats) 7 rebounds.

"He played a good game tonight," said typically low-keyed CC coach

basketball

Bernie Holowicki. "He got lots of rebounds. That rebound total has to be low. He must have had 7 rebounds in the fourth quarter alone. He got every key rebound for us."

MCINTYRE'S GAME overshadowed a couple of other brilliant performances. One by Borgess guard Joe Gregory. Gregory scored 32 points, 20 in the second half, and had 5 assists. He made some unbelievable passes, some were converted to baskets other weren't. The man was a one-man arsenal for the Spartans.

Lost in the McIntyre-Gregory show was the improving play of CC's supporting cast: Paul Tavara (18 points, 8 rebounds before fouling out half way through the final quarter), Ron Wandzel (14 rebounds), Lance Vaccarelli (11 points and aggressive defense) and Chris Keane (defensive specialist).

"We're starting to get better," Holowicki said. "We're beginning to jell."

The difference in the game, both Holowicki and Borgess coach Mike Fusco concurred, was the CC press. Borgess committed 19 first-half turnovers, 11 in its backcourt, which resulted in a 45-31 halftime lead for CC.

"It was a combination of our breakdowns with the ball and CC really came to play," Fusco said. "They came out of the blocks red-hot and the lead really was insurmountable."

BUT BORGESS made a game of it with a furious rally in the fourth quarter. The Spartans reeled off a 12-4 spurt to start the quarter and eventually pulled within 9 points.

It was McIntyre who silenced the Spartans once and for all. He picked Gregory clean at the top of the key, went coast-to-coast, converted the lay up and was fouled.

"That was how do you say it, the straw that broke the camel's back," Fusco said.

Paul Newton scored 14 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for Borgess. Mario Brown chipped in 11 off the bench.

The win leaves CC with a 4-2 mark in the Catholic League, 8-3 overall. Borgess is 2-4 in the league, 5-5 overall.

Lancaster sparks OT win

With its top three scorers on the bench, Schoolcraft College's women's basketball team got a lift from reserves Amy Brown and Rhonda Lancaster in topping Alpena 71-63 in overtime Friday at Alpena.

Kim Chandler and Coryn Lamb both fouled out for Schoolcraft in regulation, leaving the player-short Ocelots with no other reserves to summon. When Missy Aiken followed them to the bench with 2:30 remaining in the overtime, Schoolcraft was forced to play with just four players.

But Lancaster, a Farmington grad, and Brown, from Livonia Churchill, were cool under pressure. Lancaster

Schoolcraft sports

canned 5 of 6 free throws in overtime and scored 7 points, while Brown had 4 points in the extra session.

"THEY WERE fantastic," coach Ed Kavanaugh said of Brown and Lancaster. "They didn't panic, they kept very cool."

Brown made what Kavanaugh called the play of the game when, midway through the overtime, Alpena's Pam Pringle rebounded a Schoolcraft miss. Brown knocked the ball loose, put it back up and scored to put the Ocelots up by 6.

The game was tied at 60 at the end of regulation. Aiken, Chandler, Lancaster and Sherry Evans each tossed in 14 points for Schoolcraft.

Pringle, the No. 2 scorer in the NCAA, poured in 34 points for Alpena. The win, Schoolcraft's 6th straight, kept the Ocelots in the Eastern Conference race with a 4-2 mark. Highland Park leads with a 5-0 mark.