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Table with columns for player names and scores. Includes sections for Championship Flight, First Flight, and Final Flight.

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Table with columns for player names and scores. Includes sections for Football, Girls Basketball, and Boys Soccer.

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Falcons: Glenn's next victim?

By Chris McCosky staff writer

HOW, YOU ask, can a contest pitting an un-defeated team against a winless team be classified as The Game of the Week in Observeland? Good question. Farmington, winless so far in 1988, will travel to Westland to take on Friday to open league play in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Granted, Farmington's inauspicious start — losing by a combined score of 76-7 to Southfield and Farmington Harrison — has taken a bit of the luster from this game. John Glenn has lived up to its pre-season billing as the area's top team with wins against Belleville (35-6) and Pontiac Central (23-0).

But looking at it from Farmington's point of view, the season officially begins Friday. The two previous games mean nothing to the Falcons. The division title and the league title are no more within reach than had they won their first two games. "The first two were just preseason," said a hopeful Farmington coach Don Kucik after last Saturday's shelling from Harrison.

TWO THINGS have gone poorly for the Falcons: They have sustained injuries to key personnel, namely lineman Craig Petermark and quarterback Joe Bob Wenson, and they opened their schedule with two of the best teams in the area. Conversely, very little has gone wrong for coach Chuck Gordon and his Glenn team. The Rocket defense has yet to be scored upon (Belleville scored six points on a fumble return) while the offense has scored 58 points.

But here's why Friday night's contest should be interesting: John Glenn is predominantly a running team. Farmington is outstanding defensively against the run. In both losses Farmington was burned by the pass, not the run, although Southfield's Torin Dorn wasn't exactly contained. Are we forecasting a Farmington win here? Not exactly. The Falcons' offense remains highly suspect and there are no soft spots in the Glenn defense. Also, Tony Bales will test the Falcon line as much or more than Dorn did two weeks ago.

The forecast is for a close, hard-hitting, three yards and a cloud of dust style football game reminiscent of the old Big 10 battles between Michigan and Ohio State. Pick — Both McCosky and Brad Emmons like the Rockets at home.

grid predictions

FRIDAY'S GAMES

HAMTRAMCK at CLARENCEVILLE (7:30 p.m.) — Livonia Clarenceville may want to start the season all over again after a pair of lopsided defeats to Redford St. Mary and Grantwood. Injuries have cut a swath through the Trojan roster. Hamtramck (1-1) is coming off a 7-6 win last week against Algonac.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL at NORTHVILLE (7:30 p.m.) — This was the game many local experts felt may have decided the winner in the Western Lakes' Western Division. It still could, but Northville (1-1), like so many teams this year, has been hit hard by injuries. Churchill (2-0) is looking to do for against a formidable Harrison defense and the offense opportunistic. Most importantly, the team is playing enthusiastic football.

N. FARMINGTON at LIVONIA STEVENSON (7:30 p.m.) — The tendency for Stevenson's winless start at the thought of having to play Northville. The Raiders were humiliated by lovely Willow Lake Western last week and were in for an unpleasant week of practice. Stevenson (1-1) barely got past Livonia Franklin last week and is still looking for consistent offense.

PLYMOUTH SALEM at W.L. CENTRAL (7:30 p.m.) — With Paul Makara running the attack, Salem's wishbone finally hit stride in the second half against Churchill last week. Still, the Rocket's second loss of the year could have taken some fight out of them. Central (0-2), on the other hand, seems to be getting stronger by the week. As always, these two teams will go at each other.

W.L. WESTERN at PLYMOUTH CANTON (7:30 p.m.) — Can Western come back to earth before Friday night? Western (1-1), led by sophomore back Mike Hall, stunned North Farmington last week. Canton (0-2) is hurting. Senior quarterback Tony Alkon is out for at least four more weeks with a stress fracture in his leg.

BISHOP GALLAGHER at GARDEN CITY (7:30 p.m.) — Garden City is 0-2 and Gallagher, 1-1. The Lions edged Jackson Lumen Christi, 10-7, Saturday night. GC, meanwhile, is in the midst of a murderous

schedule — Wayne, Warren Woods Tower and now Gallagher. Pick — Gallagher wins.

ROMULUS AT REDFORD UNION (7:30 p.m.) — Led by a big, strong and aggressive defense, Jim Gorman's RU team (1-1) may be the Observeland sleeper this year. That defense will have to deal with a speedy but small Romulus (0-2) squad. Pick — RU survives, both agree.

LINCOLN PARK AT WAYNE MEMORIAL (7:30 p.m.) — Lincoln Park (2-0) has registered impressive wins over Westland and Wayne. Will pose a stiff test for Wayne (1-1). Darron Tatum has emerged as one of the area's premier running backs rushing for nearly 300 yards in two games for Wayne. Pick — McCosky likes Lincoln Park to remain undefeated; Emmons concurs.

FARMINGTON HARRISON AT LIVONIA FRANKLIN (1 p.m.) — Franklin (0-2) has not been able to unleash its potentially potent offense. It will be doubly tough to do for against the formidable Harrison defense that has allowed just seven points this season. And then there's Harrison's Brian Smonkins for the Pats to contend with. The all-star caught eight passes for 128 yards last week. Pick — Harrison goes 3-0.

CRESTWOOD AT REDFORD THURSTON (1 p.m.) — Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 1-1, is coming off an impressive win against Annapolis last week while Thurston (1-1) was hammered by Allen Park 20-0. Still, this should be an even match. Pick — Thurston gets its first Tri-Vine League victory.

BISHOP BORGESS VS. DIVINE CHURCH (2 p.m.) — Garden City Junior High? — The high-powered Borgess offense against one of the best defensive groups in the state — nice matchup here. DC is 2-0 with wins against Gallagher and Willow Park, while Borgess is 1-1 in losing to East Ford and barely edging RU. Pick — We agree, it's DC.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL vs. DET. KETTERING (7:30 p.m., at Clarenceville) — A battle of underdogs and another battle of strength and size (CC) against speed (Kettering). Kettering plays a wild and woolly brand of football that is very controlled. Pick — Discipline wins out, so does CC.

ST. AGATHA VS. RED. ST. MARY (7:30 p.m., at RU's Kraft Field) — The Aggies were battered by state-ranked Traverse City St. Francis last week, 34-12. Redford St. Mary is 1-1 after losing to Kalkaska last week, 20-18. This is a big game for Agatha. Pick — Agatha wins a thriller.

McCosky was 12-1 last week and is 21-6 on the season. Emmons (10-11) was 8-5 last week.

Garden City gridders face tough sledding

The schedule makers certainly were not kind to Garden City first-year football coach Bob Lusk. The Cougars, who dropped their second straight game Saturday against highly touted Warren Woods Tower, 28-6, now face Catholic League Central Division member Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher (1-1) Friday at home.

"Tower was a mostly senior team with a good quarterback," said Lusk. "They shut us down. I think they'll be a good ballclub."

Tower signal caller Tom Brown hit 10 of 19 passes and figured in three of the Titans' four touchdowns. Garden City, held to 150 total yards, and they only TD in the third quarter on a pass from Terry Bonner to Audie Wheeler. The TD was set up by Jeff Fowler's 30-yard run.

Tight end Glen Chickering was GC's top receiver with four catches for 58 yards. Gallagher will be another stern test for the Cougars. The Lions beat Jackson Lumen Christi last week, 10-7, and lost their opener to heralded Dearborn Divine Child, 6-0.

"Gallagher has excellent balance," Lusk said, "and they have a good pass catcher. It'll be hard to run against them. They're very aggressive."

ST. FRANCIS 34, ST. AGATHA 12: Traverse City St. Francis (2-0), one of the state's top-ranked teams in Class C, lured back visiting Redford St. Agatha (1-1) Saturday. Quarterback Jim Knittel, making his first start, stood out despite the loss, hitting eight of 18 passes for 186 yards. He threw a 73-yard TD pass to Kevin Foulin in the third quarter and tossed an 80-yard strike to Tom Rychniak in the fourth quarter.

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