

## Sports

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## A beauty! Glenn wins in OT

## Falcons come alive

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

Nervous, anxious, excited, the spectators spill out of the stands and encircle the sun-drenched North Farmington football field.

Security police urge the patrons to back away from the field so the game can continue. North fans scream "defense, defense." The Westland John Glenn fans scream "offense, offense." The objective observer stands in awe of the absolute thrill of the moment.

The fans hush as the Westland John Glenn offense approaches the line of scrimmage. The North defense digs in.

It's overtime and the game, which could decide the champion of the Western Lake Lakes Division, is scoreless. The North defense has been impenetrable in Glenn's overtime possession.

Third down and 11 yards to go for a score.

**GLENN QUARTERBACK** Steve Irwin, who has done little more than hand the ball off to his backs for four quarters, suddenly drops back to pass.

This doesn't totally surprise the Raider defense and the coverage is good.

Irwin lofts a high spiral into the left corner of the end zone. Glenn's Chuck Hammontree and North's Corky D'Ascenzo chase stride for stride after the aerial.

The pass, perfectly timed, perfectly thrown, smacks Hammontree in the hands.

John Glenn 7, North Farmington 0.

One would be hard-pressed to recall a better played, more intoxicating high school football game than was played Saturday.

Glenn coach Chuck Gordon sought out North coach Jim O'Leary afterwards.

"Just your typical Glenn-North game," he said.

Not quite.

**BOTH TEAMS** dodged bullets to stay alive in regulation.

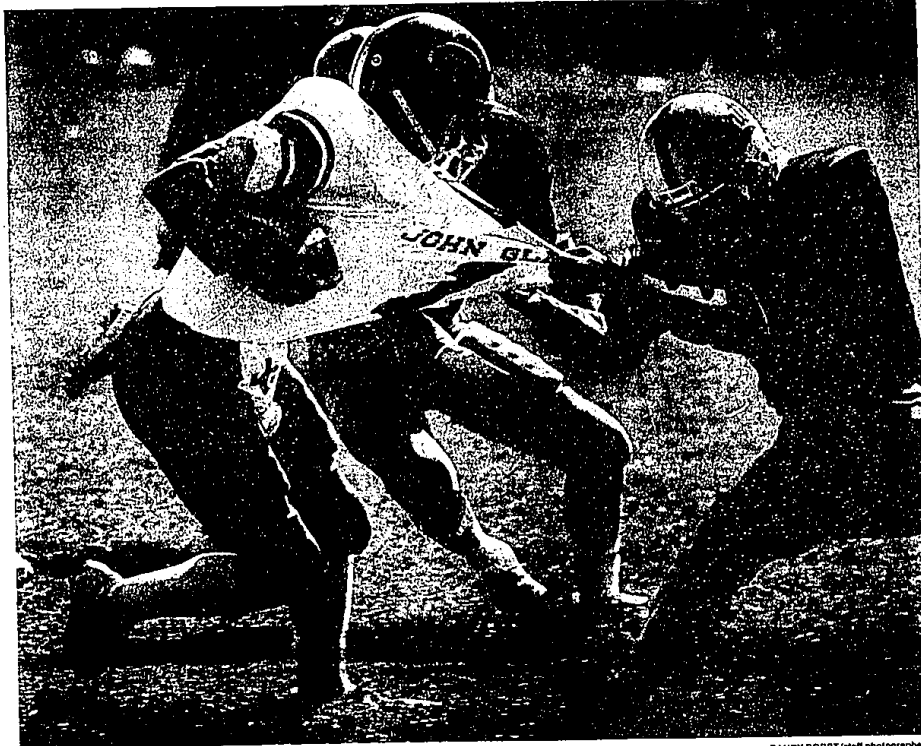
North took the last shot before OT. North, on a 18-yard Todd Shepard to D'Ascenzo pass and a gutsy 35-yard run by Chris Christman, had the ball on Glenn's 13-yard line with 14 seconds left.

Mike Rudin's 29-yard field goal, however, hit off the crossbar and fell to the ground, no good.

"I was pretty scared there for a while," said Gordon. "But, I felt we fumbled the ball away a couple times down close and both times our defense stiffened. That was a key."

Twice in the fourth quarter, Glenn marched deep into North territory. Once North's Derek Cribble fell on a Tony Boles' fumble at the 7, then Brad Demeter fell on another Glenn fumble at the North 34.

Boles, one of the state's premier backs, managed 95 yards in 27 carries. He gained just 28 yards in the first half.



Key play: Glenn's Chuck Hammontree (white) is wrestled to the turf by North's Corky D'Ascenzo after he picked off a Raider pass in the end zone in the first half Saturday.

Credit: North's defense.

Said O'Leary: "I told the kids there was no reason to hang their heads. We showed our pride out here today. We played a heck of a football game."

**THE HERO** for Glenn was Hammontree. And not just because of the TD. He stopped two potential North scoring drives in the first half with pass interceptions, one he grabbed in the end zone, the other inside the 10.

Then, in North's OT possession, Hammontree made the tackle of the day.

North (2-2) had moved to the 3 in two plays. But on third down, Hammontree bolted through the line and threw North's Scott Seizer for 6-yard loss. On fourth down, North's desperation pass attempt failed.

Glenn's Tony Svaluto had an opportunity to put Glenn (4-0) ahead in the first half, but his 43-yard field goal attempt went just wide.

"This was the toughest game we've been in," Gordon said. "And we expect of this type of game. We talked about it all week."

The "type of game" Gordon referred to was a physical type of game. Numerous players were carted off the field with injuries. The most serious was sustained by North's flashy back Marc Brown.

Brown, after breaking off a 43-yard run in the first half, sustained a broken wrist. O'Leary expects him lost for the season.

**STILL, O'LEARY** was upbeat afterwards. "We showed how well we can perform here today. I'd be disappointed if we didn't play this well every time."

"I thought the winner of this game would win the championship. We can always hope for miracles — maybe Glenn will play Livonia Franklin."

Franklin, which has a history of defeating Glenn, alas, is not on the Rockets' schedule.

"Hopefully," said Gordon, "this game is an indication of good things to come."

Tough to say. Perhaps even a league title would pale in comparison to the brilliance of Saturday.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Falcons get Rocked; Vikes tumble North

Five straight and counting. The PlymOUTH Salem girls basketball team continued its unbeaten string against Western Lakes foes with a resounding 60-19 victory over Farmington.

Winless Farmington gave Salem a game for a half, but first-year Falcon coach Diana Schwartz found little comfort in that.

"You've got to play all four quarters to win," she said.

Salem took control of the game with a 22-2 third quarter burst. The vaunted Rock defense limited Farmington to just five points in the second half.

"We picked up their offensive sets in the third quarter, and the kids started to defend it better," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "Offensively, we got good recognition. We got the opportunities and we scored on them."

Kristen Hostynski led the attack with 15 points. Dena Head added 13 and Jessica Handley 12.

Mary Kay Orrico led the Falcons (0-6) with eight.

After losing a pair of non-league games at the start of the season, Salem has won five straight.

The Rocks, who already faced state-ranked Detroit St. Martin DePorres and Livonia Ladywood, will take another shot at a perennial state power. On Tuesday, the Rocks will host Farmington Hills Mercy.

**W.L. CENTRAL 54, N. FARMINGTON 45:** The undermanned North Farmington Raiders put up a tough fight before bowing Thursday.

The Raiders (2-3) in the Western

## girls basketball

Lakes, 3-3 overall) fell behind 19-14 at the half and then matched Central (4-1) in the conference, 4-2 overall) shot for shot in the third quarter.

But Central, led by Diana Bolla's 19 points and Amy Freeman's 15, held off the Raiders in the final eight minutes.

Heather McPhillips was a tower of strength for North. She scored 18 points and pulled in 11 rebounds.

**MERCY 52, BORGESS 17:** After a series of tough games, Farmington Hills Mercy got a breather via Bishop Borgess.

Terril Ford scored 20 points to lead the Marlins (5-1) in their Catholic League opener. Yvette Maison added 19.

**CHURCHILL 66, HARRISON 22:** For those who delight in such statistics, the Farmington Harrison basketball team has now lost 46 consecutive games, five straight this year.

Lost in the string is the gutsy effort from Harrison's Jennifer Hughes.

Hughes accounted for half the Hawks' offense with 11 points, and she pulled down 12 rebounds.

Amy Weber led Livonia Churchill (4-2) with 16 points and Liz Monroe scored 12.

## Raider kickers tie tired Salem

In an upset of sorts, North Farmington battled to a 1-1 draw Thursday with visiting Plymouth Salem in a Western Lakes boys soccer match.

The tie left Salem at 4-0-4 in league play and 6-1-4 overall. North is now 1-4-2 in the league and 2-6-1 overall.

George Lopez scored the Raiders lone goal eight minutes into the match off a cross from Jeff Julian. The Rocks' Ebon Nash, taking a long through pass from Mike Tanner, responded with an unassisted goal at the 18-minute mark to tie the game.

Thursday's draw with Salem is part of an overall improvement made recently by the Raiders, coach Cathy Cole said.

"In the last three or four games, we've played our opponents more equal," Cole said. "We're utilizing the midfield more and playing together. We didn't have that in the first five games. We're sewing together the gap we had before."

For Salem, it was the end of a long 11 games in

an 18-day stretch of its schedule.

"We're very tired," Salem coach Ken Johnson said. "The legs are just dead. I don't know what it is, but North, just like Farmington and Northville — they seem to get real fired up when they play us."

**FARMINGTON 4, FRANKLIN 0:** Jason Forge scored two goals, and Chris Hackman added three assists as Farmington (3-4-1) blanked Livonia Franklin (2-5-1) Thursday in Western Lakes soccer action.

Both of Forge's goals came in the first half as the Falcons led 2-0. Jerry Potter and Tom Hanson scored in the second half, with Hackman assisting on both goals.

"We controlled the center of the field most of the game," Farmington coach Ed Bartram said. "We played good team ball today."

The Falcons outshot the Patriots, 21-14, as Farm-

ington goalkeeper Andy Krause picked up the shut-

out.

**STEVENSON 3, HARRISON 0:** Livonia Stevenson (0-0-2), the Western Lakes leaders, got a pair of goals from Lars Richters Friday to beat visiting Farmington Harrison. It was the Spartans' eighth straight shutout.

Stevenson, which outshot the Hawks 30-3, also got strong midfield play from John Mickelsen.

**PLY. CHRISTIAN 3, HURON VALLEY 0:** Rod Windie scored twice, and Dave Preay added another goal Friday as unbeaten Plymouth Christian (6-0) blanked visiting Huron Valley Lutheran.

One of Windie's goals was unassisted as was Preay's. Dave Cadaret assisted on Windie's second goal, which gave Christian a 2-0 halftime lead.

Freshman goalie Jason Anthony, who stopped six shots, got the shutout.

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## Catholic Central, Rice go to war, 2-2

By Brad Emmons  
staff writer

Don't take a Redford Catholic Central-Birmingham Brother Rice soccer match for granted.

In many ways, the soccer rivalry is more intense than in football or basketball.

Emotions ran high Friday afternoon as some 500 fans lined the field at Redford's Bell Creek Park, watching the two Central Division and state-ranked foes battle to a 2-2 tie.

The tie virtually assured Rice of first place in the Central circuit. The Warriors are 6-0-3 in league play with cellar dwellers Redford Bishop Borgess and Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher left to play. The tie gives CC a 4-1-3 league mark. The Shamrocks are running ahead of Warren DeLaSalle and Harper Woods Notre Dame for the second and final

playoff berth in the Catholic League.

"I tried to play down this game all the week because CC had a lot more to lose than we did," said Rice first-year coach Alex Maderal. "But this game means a lot. There was a lot of skill out there today."

**IN A TIGHTLY MARKED**, ball control match, Rice had the better of it in the first half, leading 1-0 when striker Kord Kutichins knocked in a shot after CC goalie Casey Burke mishandled the ball.

But Burke kept the Shamrocks close with a spectacular save, going high to rob Steve Schlem. Rice also hit the crossbar twice during the half.

"I thought Rice took it to us with the long ball in the first half," said CC coach Paul Scelcina. "And with our short passing game, we weren't executing."

"We kept jamming the middle."

The momentum, however, quickly changed in the

second half as CC stepped up the pressure.

Senior forward C.J. Wendt was the catalyst, setting up two CC goals to give the Shamrocks a 2-1 lead.

Vitas Ruginas headed in a long Wendt throw-in from the sideline. Shortly after, Wendt then set up Tom Goodwin exactly the same way to put the Shamrocks ahead by one.

**BUT RICE WOULD** not be denied, as Kutichins slipped behind the CC defense for his second goal of the game when the ball took a crazy hop on Burke's

about 20 yards away from his own net.

"I thought we dominated the first half," said Maderal. "But in the second half, because we had the wind to our backs, we thought we kind of had it. We just played kick and run."