Falcon runners sweep in WLAA

By Larry O'Connor staff writer and the staff writer staff their previously uncomplished the previous of the previous of

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Posted on Wendy Gilles' locker at zchool last week was a Detroit News article on Sterling Heights tennis standout Candy Ropetzni.

The article labeled Ropetzni the queen of high school tennis — "Unmatched" said the headline.

Gilles, the No. I singles player at Plymouth Salem, found the article inspirational.

By Chris McCosky staff writer

Even before his team's biggest ballgame of the year, Westland John Glenn football coach Chuck Gordon has maintained a sense of humor. Reporter: "like to oak you some questions of the year to the total the properties of the control of the control of the year to date will occur Friday night at Glenn as the Rockets lay their unbeater record (7-0) on the line against two-time defending Western Lakes Activities Association (WLAA) champion Farmington Harrison (6-1).
"Harrison is so good because of coach (John) Herrington and his staff," said Gordon. They do such a good job. Their record and tradition speak for themselves. They're one of the powers in the state."

state."

And although Gordon's team is a alight favorite, the Glenn coach is taking the game seriously, having seconds the Hawks twice personally.

Gordon maintains his Rockets must contain Harrison tailback Brian Smollnaki and quarterback Mike Mack in order to win.

"WE'VE GOT to control Smolinki, and that Mack is a good one," Gordon said. "And we've going to have to generate offense against their defense. They really haven't given up many points at all. It's the best defense we've faced." Use the best offense we've faced." Herrington ham't personally scouted his next opponent, but his assistant coaches have a lengthy scouting report on Glenn, featuring tallback Tony Boles and company.

Boles and company.

"We have to stop their fullback (Paul Beasley) up
the middle and their passing game," Herrington
sald. "The last two games they've thrown effectiveite." I've never seen Boles, but I'm told he has tre-mendous speed. You can't give him a crack because

mendous speed, You can t give num a trace of the fill go.

"Defensively they do the same things we do. They play good, solid fundamentals. They really don't use any trick defenses or bilities. They use a 6-2 alignment just like we do."

Both coaches said their teams are anxiously awaiting Friday's 7:30 pm. start.

"My kids were flying today (Monday) in practice," Hernigton said. "I had to caim them down. They're excited about playing in the champlonship,

spirational.

"Oh, it pumped me up for sure,"
Gilles said of the article. "I played her
four times last year (in USTA amateur
matches), and I beat her three of the

matches), and I beat her three of the times."
Gilles and Kopetaki met again Satur-day in the state No. 1 singles finals at Midland Dow where Gilles unseated the reigning queen, 6-3, 5-7, 6-2.

"ALL THE pressure was on her," Gilles said. "I think she knew it would not be an easy ride for her." Kopetiti had lost only one other match in her three-year high school carrier and was the state singles champion that year cilles hadn't played high school tennis since her freshman season, preferring to concentrate on USTA events. That year she was outsed from the tournament in the semilinal round. Gilles was the saggressor throughout the championship match Saturday, Her hard, nocurate ground strokes kept Ko-

the championship match Saturday. Her hard, accurate ground strokes kept Ko-petiat pinned to the baseline and con-stantly on the run.

"I felt like I was more ready to play," Gilles said. "I was prepared for an all-day match. I don't know if she was really ready to play that two of

was really ready to play that type of match. I was willing to do anything I had to do to win."

it.
"I played my game," she said. "I played on the baseline, but I was aggressive and I kept the ball real deep."

GILLES' TRIP to the state chem-GILLES' TRIP to the state championship began with a first round byra. She dusted Birmingham Scahelin's Misses States of States

Gillies will graduate from Salem in January and begin the winter semester at the University of Wisconsin. She will immediately join the Badger tentis team where her sister Chris plays No. 1 chroles.

Gilles reigns in state tennis

"That was a nice way to wrap up my figs school career," Gilles said.

No. 1 doubles: Noel Berry and Sarah Mayer (Grosse Points South) def. Jennifer Borseth and Ings school career," Gilles said.

Trecy from (Bloomfeld His Laiser), 9-1, 6-0.

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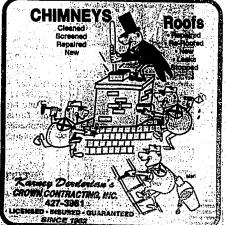
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grid predictions

and they want to see what they can do."

Hawks gun for WLAA title

PICES — The sports editors disagree. Brad Emons likes Glenn and Chris McCosky takes Harri-

LIV. CRÜRCHILL at W.L. CENTRAL (7:30 p.m.): Livo-nia Churchill (5-2) snepped a two-game losing streak with a win over Frenkin. Walled Lake Central (4-3) was unim-pressive in a lots to Stevenson. PICKS — Churchill gets two volos.

W.L. WESTERN at LIV. STEVENSON (7:30 p.m.):
Could be the best matchup of the Western Lakes consideration games. Welled Lake Western (4-5) is consideration games. Welled Lake Western (4-5) is considerational disappointing loss to Hartson, while Unonia Stevenson (3-4) tripped Central. PICKS — A disagreement Inda McCooky taking Western and Emons fevoring Stevenson.

LIV. FRANKLIN at PLY. SALEM (7:30 p.m.): A renewal of a rhaily that's been on hold for a low years. Past game have been hard hitting, but that year's nationly is a pele contest between a pair of 2-5 teams. PICKS — Emons ikee Salam, lad by all purpose back Paul Mákaza. McCosky goes with Franklin's defense, led by linebacker Chris Prenoti.

CLARENCEVILLE at FLINT ACADEMY (7:30 p.m.): Livonia Clarenceville (1-6) has been strugging at season, while Fint Academy (4-1) is off to its best start over. The Engles rely on the rushing of Mike Lewis, who has 5:38 yards in 85 carries, Quartobeck Ulyasis Burna' favorite tocoher is Craig Suttera. PICKS — Fint Academy wins egalt, both egroup.

GARDEN CITY at WOODHAVEN (7:30 p.m.): The lougars (2:5) most future Northwest Suburban Legue be Woodhaven (1:6), a team blanked earlier in the sea-on by Redford Union. PICKS — Garden City wins its looped stately.

REDFORD UNION at WATERFORD MOTT (7:30 p.m.): The Parithers (4-3) got stung last week by state-ranked freeting 35-0, but Mott (9-7) will provide instant relief. PICKS — RU enjoys a winning season.

WAYNE MEMORIAL at MONROE (7:30 p.m.): The Zebras (3-4), Observariand's mystery team, travels south to face Monroe (2-5), which is coming off a 52-0 loss to

mark for the first time alnos its opener. PiCK — Emons sticks with Wayne, while McCosky goes with the home

NORTHVILLE at N. FARMINGTON (1 p.m.); Northv0a (4-3) is one of the Western Lakas' hottest teams of late. North (3-4) got back on track lisst week against rival Farmington. Mustaring quartorback Paul Newtit is a treat to run and pass. PICRS — Emons goes with Northv0ile, while MCCosky takes North.

PLY, CANTON at FARMINGTON (1 p.m.): The Chiefs (0-7) are now playing under a lame duck coach (Richard Barr), Farmington (2-5), one of the WILAA's pre-eason favortine, is riding a roller coaster. Tackle Craip Petermark has stood out despite the lackbatro campatign. PICKS — Farmington escapes the Chiefs, both agree.

MELVINDALE at REDFORD THURSTON (1 p.m.): Can Thurston (2-5) pull off another upset in as many weeks? Medvindale (2-5) has been somewhat of a disappointment in the Tif-Pivr League. PicKS — Medvindale sunvives, says McCosky; while Emons counters with the Eagles.

BISHOP DORGESS vs. BROTHER RICE (2 p.m. at Garden City Jr. Hight it hasn't been a tatte chemplorable essaon for Birminghum Brother Rice (2-5), which has lest to five teams with a combined record to 34-2. Rectord Bishop Borgess (2-5) is coming of a valuar effort against unbeaten Warren De La Sabe (a 20-14 loss). The Spartnan must contain Ros's quartetack-wide noticer combination of Civis Sullivan and Deve Plankett. PICKS — Rice-a-coni.

8T. AGATHA vs. PONTIAC CATHOLIC [7:30 p.m. at RU's Kraft Field; The Aggles (4-3) blev lest woeld; agme against Chrahr duke is M. Movra, 7-0, in reventine. A three-way C Division lie finds Redford St. Againte locked with OLSM and Portialo Catholo. All time teams hew 3-1 division records. PICKS — Ponitac Cathodo (4-3) cluthes a share of the tile with Orchard Lake, which shoold wis fits final regular season game against Ann Arbor Gabdel Richard.

McCosky was 11-3 last week improving his seasonal tark to 69-25. Emons was 8-6. He's 59-35 on the year.