

Sports

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Glenn dethrones Harrison, 28-7

By Brad Emone
staff writer

In the victorious Westland John Glenn locker room, sounds from a portable tape player blared out Bruce Springsteen's "Glory Days."

It was a song and a night of football that coach Chuck Gordon, his staff and players may remember for quite some time.

Glenn, taking advantage of 244-yard running performance by Tony Boles, captured its first Western Lakes Activities Association title with a stirring 28-7 victory Friday night over two-time defending champion Farmington Harrison.

"That was a good football team we beat," Gordon told his players afterwards. "And they (Harrison) showed a lot of class."

GORDON, WHOSE team is unbeaten in eight games, also emphasized the importance of this week's game against crosstown rival Wayne Memorial for the city title.

"This was a big victory because we won the league," Gordon said. "But the other thing it does is give us a chance to get into the (state) playoffs."

"We're in control of our own destiny."

Boles, the 6-foot-2, 194-pound senior was at his finest for the big league showdown.

He broke a school record with a 92-yard TD run to give Glenn a 12-0 lead after one quarter and then help set up Glenn's final touchdown in the fourth quarter, carrying 10 times for 79 yards, capped by quarterback Steve Irwin's 2-yard sneak.

"Somebody said that he (Boles) couldn't run inside, but that's bull," said Harrison coach John Herrington. "He's a great back."

ON GLENN'S final TD drive, Boles, tackled and made moves that coaches just don't teach.

"Tony played his finest game at John Glenn," Gordon said. "I hear the talk about him not running inside, but I don't know where it comes from."

"He's had good speed since he got here and he's improved."

There were other Glenn heroes as well.

The Rockets' defense made a goal-line stand midway through the first quarter, stopping Harrison's all-purpose back Brian Smolinski on third down at the 1 and quarterback Mike Mack's sneak on fourth down.

"Smo!" said he thought he was in, but our coaches said we didn't get in on the fourth down," Herrington said. "It took our momentum away, but that sounds like sour grapes. But it didn't matter, Glenn was the better team."

GLENN'S FIRST TD came as a re-

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sult of a Harrison miscue as defensive back Bill Grisamer picked off a pass and raced 80 yards (also a school record) at the 9:16 mark.

Glenn scored another TD at the outset of the second quarter when Irwin found Mike Hammon tree wide open for a 28-yard scoring strike with 7:28 left in the half. Two plays earlier, Glenn picked up 27 yards when Irwin's pass, intended for Grisamer, was tipped by a Harrison defender and fell into the hands of Rick Hassen. (After the score, Boles ran for the two-pointer to make it 20-0.)

"I thought it might not be our night when the light end (Hassen) got that ball," said Herrington.

HARRISON, HOWEVER, marched down the field on its next series, only to have Hammon tree recover Mack's fumble on the 3.

Glenn, leading 20-0, took the ball to open the second half, but Harrison's Sean Norton picked off an Irwin flicker pass at the 50.

Seven plays later, Harrison got on the board when Mack hit Rod Sarcevic with a 12-yard TD pass and Todd Marhake added the extra point to make it 20-7.

Irwin was then intercepted on Glenn's next series by linebacker Todd Gardner at the Rockets' 44.

But Harrison couldn't score as Glenn's Paul Fominski sacked Mack for a 10-yard loss back to the 40.

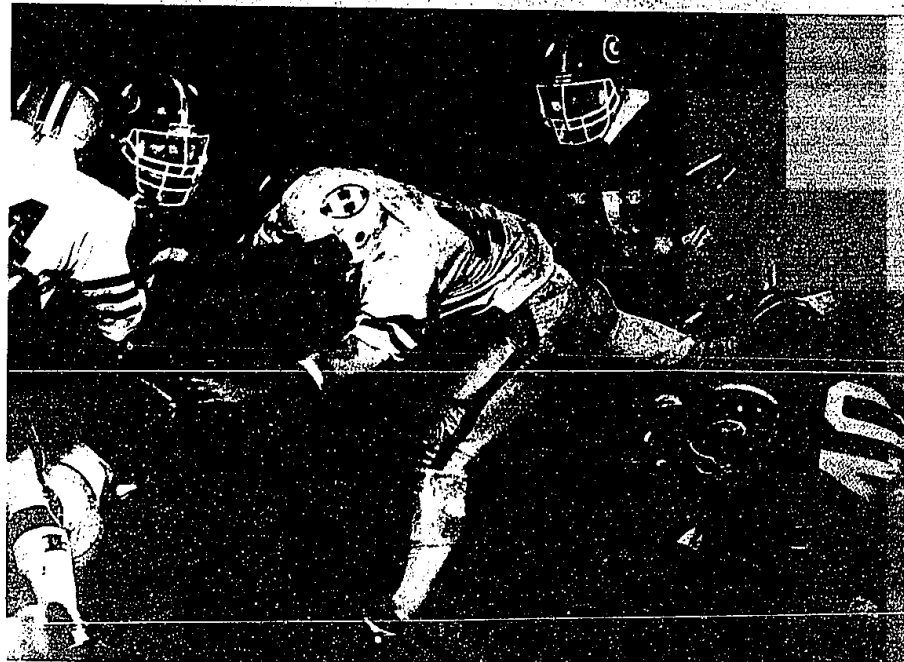
HARRISON'S ONLY other real chance to score was dashed early in the final quarter when Grisamer made his second interception of the night at his own 11.

Harrison moved the ball effectively behind the running and pass catching of Smolinski, the 5-10, 195-pound senior. He rushed for 79 yards and made four aerobic catches for 85 yards.

"Smolinski did what we thought," said Gordon. "You're not going to completely stop him and he was good, but we didn't know he was great. And he's a class guy to boot."

With the dangerous Smolinski ever lurking, Gordon said "I never felt comfortable until that last touchdown drive."

But Herrington couldn't feel comfortable either as long as Boles was on the field. His 244 yards brought his season total to 1,077, breaking Todd Jennings' school record of 1,071 set in 1982.



Brian Smolinski (No. 42) tumbles through the Glenn line Friday night on route to a 79-yard rushing performance. His effort wasn't enough to prevent Harrison from relinquishing its Western Lakes title.

Glenn stepped in front of another Mack pass and the game was history.

Herrington: 'It just might not be our night'

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

What kind of night was it for Harrison?

The Hawks gave up their Western Lakes football championship to Westland John Glenn, 28-7, Friday night but that wasn't the half of it.

Consider these events:

• Harrison fell behind 20-0 in the first half. That hadn't happened since 1973.

• Glenn's Tony Boles rushed for 244 yards. A Harrison football team has not given up that much yardage to a back in a single game in the school's history.

• Harrison's first drive of the game resulted in an 82-yard interception re-

turn for a touchdown by Glenn's Bill Grisamer.

• The Hawks' second drive took them to the Glenn 1 yard line. On third and one, Brian Smolinski appeared to cross the goal line but no touchdown was awarded. On fourth down the Glenn line stuffed Mike Mack's quarterback sneak. Two plays later, Boles streaked 92 yards for the Rockets' second score of the game.

• The Hawks pushed the ball inside the Rocket 30 three times in the first half and came away empty all three times.

HARRISON COACH John Herrington credited Glenn with being "the better football team" but couldn't help feeling just a bit snakebitten.

"Well, when we knock a pass away from their receiver and their tight end comes in from behind to catch it on the deflection — I begin to think, boy, this might not be our night," he said.

Harrison did all it could to make a game out of it in the second half. Harrison picked off Glenn's strong-armed quarterback Steve Irwin on the first two possessions of the third quarter — one by Sean Norton, the other by Todd Gardner.

Norton's interception resulted in Harrison's lone score — a 12-yard pass from Mack to Rod Sarcevic.

Harrison down 20-7 at the outset of the fourth quarter, pushed the ball to the Glenn 23. A score there and the Hawks are back in the game. But, Mr.

Glenn stepped in front of another Mack pass and the game was history.

THE GLENN victory and the outstanding effort by Boles overshadowed another superb performance by Brian Smolinski. Smolinski, splitting time between halfback and wide receiver, rushed for 79 yards and made four spectacular catches for 85 yards.

After the game, Glenn coach Chuck Gordon bumbled with his players in the Rocket locker room.

"Did you see what kind of team Harrison is," he asked his players. "Did you see how they handled themselves after the game? That's pure class."

Win with pride, lose with dignity. Harrison football.

Farmington keeps Canton winless

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Football can be a cruel game. Witness Farmington's 23-0 victory against Plymouth Canton Saturday.

On the Falcon sidelines stood senior Jim Laird, the unquestionable leader of the Farmington team. He was on crutches. His leg was broken last week against North Farmington. Saturday was his last chance to play football in front of the home crowd.

"Look at that, they are running right at my position," Laird said during the game. "I hate just standing here."

On the Canton side there was even more heartbreak. The Chiefs No. 1 quarterback, Tony Aiken, broke his leg in the season opener at North Farmington. He made his return Saturday.

On the Chiefs' fourth offensive series, Aiken retook his leg. While the doctors put his leg in an air cast, the talented senior, who had waited three years for his chance to run the Canton offense, broke down and cried.

"THE TEAM felt bad for Tony," said Canton coach Richard Barr. "He came back to us and really added a spark. He wanted to play so bad. We all feel terrible about what happened."

Aiken's injury hurt more than feelings — it hurt Canton's chances to win the football game.

The Chiefs trailed 3-0 by virtue of a 30-yard Bruce Kraft field goal at the time of the injury and had pushed the ball into Farmington territory.

The normal backup quarterback would have been Steve Gonyk, but he left the team in midweek. That left Todd Wood, a wide receiver who had never before taken a snap from center, to handle the quarterbacking chores.

The momentum in the game shifted drastically.

"Wood came in there, he knew about three or four plays and we taught him a couple more," Barr said. "But under the circumstances, I felt he did a nice job. He didn't fumble a snap."

WITH 4:44 left in the first half, Farmington quarterback Joe Bob Wenson, who played perhaps his best game ever, engineered a pretty 80-yard drive which culminated in a 14-yard touchdown pass to Jim Howell.

Kraft's point after kick was blocked. "Once we scored that TD at the end of the half, Canton didn't seem to play too well," said Farmington coach Don Kuick. "But we played very well today. The kids gave us a real good effort."

The second half belonged exclusively to the Falcons. While Farmington rolled up 143 total yards in the half, Canton was checked on just 28. Canton earned two first downs in the half, one thanks to a Farmington penalty.

On the game, Farmington amassed 266 total yards to Canton's 108.

THE SCORE remained 9-0 until the first play of the fourth quarter.

Canton (3-3), on a fourth-and-10 play from their own 48, attempted a fake punt. Dan Olaszewski, the punter, threw a pass but the reception was made out of bounds.

On the next play, Farmington's Eric Green darted through the Canton line for a 48-yard score. The blocking of Craig Petersmark and backs Ed Sudzina and Darrel Tharnish sprung Green.

"Petersmark has been outstanding all year," Kuick said. "He's had to play about everywhere for us. He's a tremendous player."

Farmington's final score came on a 10-yard run by John Buchanan.

The Falcons (3-3 in the Western Lakes, 3-5 overall) had another chance to score late in the game following a 45-yard interception return by Tharnish that put the ball on the Canton 24.

But the Canton defense, a proud unit led by Olaszewski and Rick McConnell, stuffed the Falcons' final drive.

Canton will finish its season Friday against rival Plymouth Canton. Farmington will travel to Redford Union.



Eric Green, who scored on a 48-yard run for Farmington Saturday, gets hauled down by Canton's Todd Wood.

North edges N'ville

Sophomore Chad Henry booted a school record 61-yard field goal in the third quarter that proved to be the margin of victory in North Farmington's 26-14 win against Northville Saturday.

North (3-3 in the Western Lakes, 4-4 overall) fell behind 14-0 after one quarter.

"We played poorly in the first half," said North coach Jim O'Leary. "We came back strong in the second half. The defense just shut them down."

A familiar recovery by Chris Christman in the second quarter led to a 1-yard TD run by Steve Goss.

The game-winning touchdown came with 7:58 left in the game. North quarterback Gerry Haight hit Gerry O'Leary with a 12-yard scoring strike.

Scott Selzer, for the third consecutive week, rushed for more than 100 yards. He gained 119 in 28 carries.

Henry's 61-yard field goal broke North's school record held by Matt Quinn — 47 yards.

Northville fell to 3-3 in the league, 4-4 overall.

North Farmington will remain an old acquaintance Saturday as it travels to Farmington Harrison to play for the Farmington city championship.