

North takes on Harrison

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fend just one facet of their attack," Harrington said. "If you gear everything to stopping Selzer, Scott Simon can tear you apart."

Scott Simon, North's junior quarterback, has been the key to North's success the past four weeks. Against Salem two weeks ago, Simon passed for 176 yards and two TDs. Last week, he passed for 138 yards and another TD. North has scored 75 points in the last three games.

"The North offense will put heavy pressure on Harrison's 5-2 defensive alignment. For Harrison to stop North, according to Harrington, linebackers Gary Schwedt and Jack Runghouser will have to be especially sharp.

"They are really going to have to flow to the ball," he said.

Harrison counters with an intelligent, strong-armed quarterback and a bulldozing, blue-collar halfback. Quarterback Mark Murray has been the most consistent thrower in the area this season. Scott Bissell does not possess the speed and power of Selzer. But Bissell has the heart and tenacity to puncture the best of defenses.

"We have to stop Murray," O'Leary said. "He's an excellent passer and they have great receivers in Mark Schmidt and Gary Schwedt. We have to shut Murray down."

"NORTH'S DEFENSE has been good against the pass, allowing only one team more than 100 yards passing in a game. The Raiders have picked off 12 passes. Senior free safety Rick Karcher (at 6-foot-5) is the key to the North secondary. Brad Demeter, Ryan Meador and Joe Sturte are quick and aggressive. Linebacker Brian Schlerloh is the captain of the Raider defense.

"What we'd like to do is keep the ball," said O'Leary. "If we can mount some 10- to 15-play drives they'll have a hard time scoring. It's very likely that the whole thing could be decided on a mistake."

Said Harrington: "Every time we've played them it's been a hard-fighting game. And we know there is even more at stake this year. We're looking forward to it. It's a great challenge for us. And it's great for the Farmington community."

Game time Saturday is 1 p.m. at Harrison.

Playoff spots on line in week 8

By Brad Emons
and Chris McCosky
staff writers

With only two weeks left in the regular season, talk turns to the high school football playoffs.

Which Observerland team has the best shot?

In Region IV of Class A, unbeaten Grosse Pointe North and once-beaten Dearborn Fordson appear to have locks on at least two of the four spots.

Livonia Churchill (8-1), running fourth in Region IV last week, could move up with victories over 6-1 Westland John Glenn and 5-2

Livonia Stevenson, but that appears to be an uphill climb. But a pair of victories would almost assure the Chargers of a post-season berth.

NORTH FARMINGTON, running right behind Churchill in Region IV, must play once-beaten

Class B Farmington Harrison two weeks in a row, first for the Western Lakes Championship and then in the regular season finale.

Glenn could virtually assure a spot in Region II with victories over Churchill (6-1) and Wayne Memorial (4-3). The Rockets got a boost when last week's top two teams in Region II, Ann Arbor Pioneer and Taylor Truman, both suffered defeats.

Harrison, running third last week in Region IV of Class B behind unbeaten Melvindale and once-beaten Detroit Northern, another PSL playoff team, could be a shoe-in with two straight wins over North. But that is a tall order.

The Hawks could be on the bubble with two losses, also having to contend with unbeaten Riverview and once-beaten River Rouge. Last week, your two expert prognosticators went 11-3. McCosky retains his three-game lead over Emons (56-27) with an overall record of 59-24.

FRIDAY GAMES

(all at 7:30 p.m. unless noted)

REDFORD THURSTON at TAYLOR TRUMAN (3:30 p.m.): The Eagles, winners in the Tri-River League, missed their chance to get a league win, losing to former cellar dwellers Taylor Center and Dearborn Heights Annapolis. Once-beaten Truman is coming off a stinging second loss to Melvindale. Picks — Truman in a romp.

GARDEN CITY at BAY CITY JOHN GLENN: The Cougars (4-3), who have won two straight, will have their hands full at Bay City. Glenn, the state's No. 10-ranked team, Glenn just squeaked by Saginaw Eisenhower last week, 13-7, in overtime. Picks — Glenn blast off.

WATERFORD MOTT at REDFORD UNION: RU (3-4) lost a heart-breaker last week to Dearborn, 7-6, and should have no trouble with Mott, which is coming off a 23-0 loss to Pontiac Raiders. Picks — The Panthers reach .500.

MONROE at WAYNE MEMORIAL: Wayne running back Darren Tatum had another good week, topping the 100-yard mark for the fourth time this season. The Zebras (4-3) must not get overconfident, even though Monroe is 2-5. Dearborn Fordson struggled to get past the Trojans last week, 7-0. Picks — Wayne wins a thriller.

LUTHERAN EAST at CLARENCEVILLE: Lutheran East (5-2) struggled last week to beat Hamtramck, 20-13. Clarenceville (4-3) is hurting and quarterback Gregg Bull is doubtful again. Picks — Emons takes Lutheran East. McCosky agrees.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN at LIVONIA CHURCHILL: Both teams are 6-1 and both are vying for second place in the Western Lakes Conference. A potential playoff berth is at stake. Glenn's offense

has been sputtering of late. The team that passes the ball better will win. Picks — Emons takes Churchill in a mild surprise. Glenn gets revived, according to McCosky.

LIV. STEVENSON vs. WALLED LK. WESTERN (at W.L. Central): Stevenson (5-2) has been somewhat of a surprise this season, gaining a share of the Lakes Division crown with Joist Glenn and North Farmington. The Spartans have been playing defense, while Western (2-5) has struggled offensively. Picks — Stevenson puts out a victory.

FARMINGTON at PLYMOUTH CANTON: The Chiefs (3-4) have a chance to break the .500 mark for the first time ever in the school's history. Farmington (2-5) just doesn't have the offense. Picks — Canton wins again.

PLY. SALEM at NORTHVILLE: The Rockets (1-6) are ready to bust loose against somebody and that could be Northville (2-5), a team that was shut out last week by Canton, 28-0. Picks — Salem wins No. 2.

SATURDAY GAMES

N. FARMINGTON at FARM. HARRISON (1 p.m.): This is Rocky No. 1, pitting the city's best. Harrison really put things together last week in a 35-3 trouncing of Walled Lake Western. North also appears ready for the Western Lakes championship, battering Farmington last week, 24-0. North junior quarterback Scott Simon and Harrison senior QB Mark Murray could decide the game with their passing. Picks — North's inconsistency makes us leery. Lean toward Harrison.

WALLED LK. CENTRAL at LIV. FRANKLIN (1 p.m.): With a better offense, Franklin could easily be 6-1 instead of 1-6. Central, meanwhile, is a legitimate 1-6. But things won't come easy for the Patriots, who can't seem to capitalize on breaks. Picks — Go with the Patriots in a squeaker.

ST. AGATHA vs. PONTIAC CATHOLIC (7:30 p.m. at Windsor Stadium): C-Section leader Pontiac Catholic (5-2) can clinch a berth in the Prep Bowl with a victory over the Apples (4-3), who fell apart last week in a 47-7 loss to Orchard Lake St. Mary's. Picks — Pontiac Catholic makes the short trip to the Silverdome on Sunday, Nov. 2.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL vs. WARREN DeLaSalle (7:30 p.m. at Roseville Memorial Field): A victory for CC would put the Shamrocks in the Silverdome against Dearborn Divine Child for the Catholic League A-B title. Both CC and DeLaSalle are 5-2 overall and 3-1 in Central Division play. It could be another defensive battle, but DeLaSalle has the revenge factor going, losing their 11th state ranking last season to the Shamrocks, 9-0. Running back Sean Quinn of the Pirates is a Rocky Ruler-type. Picks — Emons likes DeLaSalle. So does McCosky.

BISHOP BORGESS vs. BROTHER RICE (8 p.m. at Birmingham Groves): The Spartans (4-3) led out of the Central Division chase last week after losing to DeLaSalle, 14-0. Rice (5-2) needs to win and have DeLaSalle beat CC to earn a spot against Divine Child for the A-B title. A Borgessa victory and a DeLaSalle win will give the Spartans a wild card berth in the Prep Bowl. Picks — Rice gains a share of the Central Division crown.



RANDY BOSTA/staff photographer

North running back Scott Selzer will be the center of attention for the Harrison defense

Saturday, Selzer has gained 1,061 yards this season.

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