

## Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editors/591-2312

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(F)10



Mark Murray will play an important role for Farmington Harrison Saturday. The Hawks open the Class B state tournament at home against Riverview.

— photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Round 1

## Air Hawks vs. ground Pirates

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

Farmington Harrison vs. Riverview, First round, state Class B football playoffs. Very intriguing match. Consider.

Both Harrison coach John Herrington and Riverview coach Don Lessner have in excess of 20 years of coaching experience. Both are among the movers and shakers of the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. We have a mutual admiration society here.

"John Herrington is an outstanding coach," said Lessner. "There isn't a finer gentleman or more of a class person than John. He is a super representative of high school athletics."

Said Herrington: "We've worked together in the coaches' association for some 16 years. Don Lessner is a great football coach."

Harrison is a veteran of state tournament action, qualifying for the playoffs in three of the last five years. This is Riverview's first playoff appearance.

Harrison is 8-1 and champions of the Western Lakes Activities Association. Riverview is also 8-1 and tri-champs of the Huron League with Grosse Ile and Monroe Jefferson.

Harrison is a small, quick team. Riverview is a bit bigger but not as quick.

Harrison has a diversified offensive attack with special emphasis on the passing game. Riverview's defense is geared toward stopping the run.

Riverview's offense is built on a power running game. Harrison's defense has proved competent against both the run and pass, although North Farmington had success with a power game against the Hawks last week.

IF YOU TALK long enough to Lessner you'll come away thinking Harrison will rout his Pirates.

"Harrison has a lot of tradition, especially in the playoffs. We're just happy to be in the playoffs. Their of-

## FACT SHEET

WHAT: Class B pre-regional football game.  
WHO: Farmington Harrison (8-1) vs. Riverview (8-1).  
WHEN: 1:30 p.m. Saturday.  
WHERE: Farmington Harrison, 12 Mile Road between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake roads.  
NOTE: In the event of bad weather, the game could be moved to North Farmington High School (13 Mile west of Orchard Lake). The decision to move the site would be made on Friday by Farmington athletic director Don Holland.  
HOW MUCH: \$2.  
WHAT ELSE: Winner advances to the regional final Saturday, Nov. 15, at Westland John Glenn. Winner will play either Detroit Northern or Livonia.

fense can do so many things well. They can pass. They can run. You can't just cut one down or the other will just out you.

"Defensively, they look awfully quick. Their pursuit to the ball is outstanding. They are an excellent team, there's no denying that. We just hope we can hang in there with them."

Lessner saw Harrison play just one half of football this season (not counting films). That one half was Harrison's 34-point first half against North Farmington two weeks ago. No wonder he thinks Harrison is the second coming of the Pittsburgh Steelers' dynasty.

But Herrington isn't buying any talk of a Hawk rout.

"Don is pulling your leg," he said. "He's too good a coach and that's too good a team for that to happen."

THE RIVERVIEW defense has posted four shutouts this season. In a 3-0 win against Chelsea last week, linebacker Bob Mims (at 5-6, 135 pounds) made 14 solo tackles. He, along with 6-4, 225-pound lineman Jeff Lick, linebacker Kevin Mullins, monster back Tim Mikesell and defensive back Joel Kaezer, are the defensive standouts for the Pirates.

Offensively, Riverview relies on senior backs Todd Jenkins and Jim Coleman. The two have combined for more than 1,000 yards rushing this season. Sophomore quarterback

Bob Guiney has not thrown the ball deep much this season. But he is dangerous on roll out and screen passes.

"When you play a team that you've never played, you fear what you don't know and what you haven't seen on film," Herrington said. "When you play against teams you've been playing for 10 years, you kind of know what to expect."

Given that, what do you suppose Lessner is thinking? Teams that have been playing Harrison for 10 years — teams like North Farmington, Northville, Farmington, West Bloomfield — still don't know what to expect from Herrington's diversified and imaginative offense.

Therein lies Harrison's biggest edge going into Saturday's game.



Scott Blossell is Harrison's bruising, blue-collar running back.

## Super season

## Farmington cross country teams finish 2nd and 6th in Class A meet

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

Seven points. Imagine how the Farmington boys cross country runners felt Saturday when they found out that seven points — seven measly little points — separated them from the state Class A championship.

Arrrgghhh! "Initially, there was great disappointment," said Farmington boys coach Jerry Young, whose team finished second to Swartz Creek at the state meet in Flint. "To lose by just seven points, the kids were thinking, 'Boy, if only I did this, or if I could've done that.' "But our goal was to finish in the top three. We felt that would be a top-notch finish. I think when the kids sat back and looked at all they'd accomplished, they were happy and elated. And they also knew they were as good as any team there."

SO, TOO, was the Farmington girls cross country team. The Lady Falcons finished sixth in the state meet, 12 points out of fourth. Ann Arbor Pioneer, as expected, won the meet followed by Sterling Heights Stevenson, Portage Northern, Dearborn Edsel Ford and Ann Arbor Huron. See statistical page for complete results.

"We're just thrilled," said Farmington girls coach John Barrett. "We were ranked seventh in the state coming into the meet. All seven of our runners ran personal best times. Bonnie Stecker set a school record (19:36). This group has run well all year and we just seemed to peak at the right time."

Consider what Barrett has done at Farmington. Four years ago the Falcons could not field a full team. Only four runners were on the squad. The team has been Western Lakes champs the past two years. In 1985, the team placed 19th in the state. This year: sixth. From nothing to state power in four years.

"There are a couple of reasons for our success," Barrett said. "All our kids are dedicated to the sport and they enjoy running cross country. They have a good time. This year, we had great senior leadership with Nicole Jelley and Leslie Martin. Three, we had a great pre-season and camp that got the kids pumped up for the season. And last, the team attitude was super. I assigned certain kids certain roles and they carried them out. They did what they had to do to win."

THE GIRLS individual winner in the team race was

Edsel Ford's Kristin Salt who finished in an amazing 17:58. Stecker, Farmington's top finisher, placed 27th. Jennifer Kiel placed 31st (19:41), Amy Trunk placed 54th (20:16), Anna Quenneville 55th (20:16), Jelley 65th (20:26), Margaret Martin 82nd (20:55) and Leslie Martin 117th (21:15).

"This team has a lot of spirit and I'm proud of all of them," Barrett said.

In the girls individual race (for runners from non-qualifying teams), Livonia Churchill's Karen Kantor placed fifth with a 19:23. Kelly Dooley from Bishop Borgess placed 30th (20:14); Pauline Eldridge from Westland John Glenn placed 32nd (20:17); Michelle Gayney from Bishop Borgess placed 33rd (20:20); Tina Koons from Livonia Franklin placed 47th (20:32); Janis Biluski from Redford Union placed 64th (21:02).

THE BOYS individual winner in the team race, for the second straight year, was Monroe's Todd Williams (15:08.32).

Farmington's Chris Inch placed fourth (15:40.64). "Chris was disappointed," Young said. "He would have liked to have finished higher. But he ran his best time ever. Four of our seven runners ran personal bests."

At Stebbins placed 20th (16:17), Brandon London 23rd (16:19), Matt Walter 52nd (16:39), Ron Smedley 58th (16:41), Rob Holloway 113th (17:17) and Brad Moore 143rd (17:36) for the Falcons.

"Our kids ran with a lot of pride," Young said. "There were five legitimately good teams there. We ran as well as we ever have. I'm proud as punch. These guys gave it all they had. I mean, what a way to cap a season."

It was Farmington's best finish in state competition.

In the boys individual race: Dan Ledeel of John Glenn placed 13th (16:03); Matt Smith of Borgess was 17th (16:18); Bill Atwell of Plymouth Salem was 22nd (16:21); Derrick Allen of Wayne Memorial was 23rd (16:22); Jay Swickel of Plymouth Canton was 49th (16:46); Ansel Updegrave of Catholic Central was 54th (16:51); Kevin Jones of Salem was 64th (17:09); Greg Bolter of Catholic Central was 70th (17:16); Pat Stapleton of Garden City was 71st (17:17).

IN THE CLASS B race at Chelsea, Farmington Harrison's boys and girls teams placed 23rd. Chris Hart placed 60th with a 17:15 in the boys race. Jonny Anderson led the Hawks girls with a 41st place (21:03).

Livonia Ladywood got a ninth place run from Janine Kloc (19:49).

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