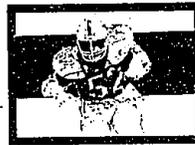


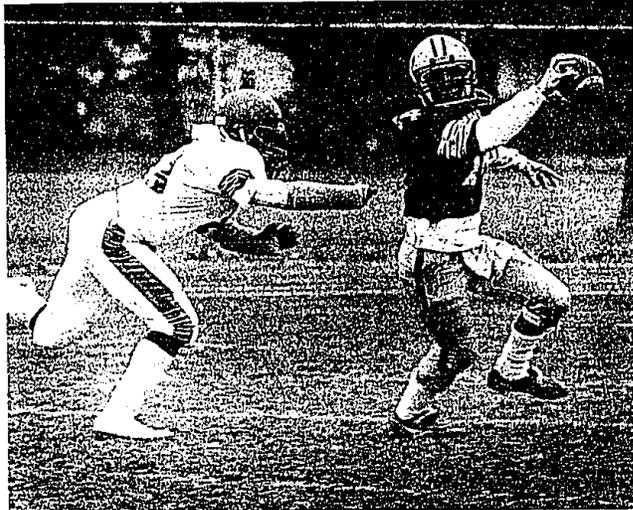
Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editors/591-2312



Thursday, November 20, 1989 O&E

(F1D)



Harrison quarterback Mark Murray was superb in the Hawks' win over Detroit Northern, hitting 18 of 24 passes for 177 yards and two TDs.

Murray may have to duplicate those figures if Harrison is to get past Marysville.

Marysville still hurts from '81 playoff loss

By Chris McCosky staff writer

As Farmington Harrison football coach John Herrington was walking off the Westland John Glenn football field last Saturday, someone mentioned that Glenn had upset Ann Arbor Pioneer in its Class A regional championship.

"Is that right?" he asked. "That's just great. The Western Lakes lives!" The 12-team Western Lakes Activities Association has made its mark on the state high school football playoffs this season.

Harrison will play Marysville in the Class B semis at 7:30 Friday night, while Glenn will take on Muskegon in a Class A semifinal at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

WHAT: The Class B semifinal football game.

WHO: Farmington Harrison (10-1) vs. Marysville (10-1).

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Friday.

WHERE: Flint Atwood Stadium.

HOW MUCH: All tickets, \$2.

WHAT ELSE: Winner advances to the state Class B finals Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Winner will play either Grand Rapids South Christian or Cheboygan.

best chance would be Harrison and Glenn.

SATURDAY WAS a day of celebration for both Observerland football and the Harrison Hawks, who impressively defeated Detroit Northern 36-18.

Marysville (10-1) is hungry for the Hawks. In fact, the Vikings have been banking for a rematch with Harrison since 1981.

"They want us pretty bad," Herrington said. "Every time I see Walt Braun (Marysville coach), he always

says he can't wait until he gets another shot at us."

Marysville should remind the Hawks of Riverview, their opponent in the first round of the playoffs. The Vikings are well-coached, not real big, not real fast and very dangerous.

"They are almost identical to Riverview," Herrington said. "They run a wing-T offense, a lot of bootleg passes and about a million different pass patterns. They are solid offensively and solid defensively."

The keys to the Vikings' attack are quarterback Randy Socha and backs Rich Mlrenedorff and Steve Foster. "Just like Riverview. They aren't very fast but they are tough," Herrington said.

PERHAPS MARYSVILLE'S biggest weapon is its coaching staff. Braun is the second winningest high school coach in the state.

"Walt does a great job; his whole staff does," Herrington said. "You know they will be ready to play."

How about the Hawks? Will there be a letdown after the near-perfect game against Northern?

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Top spot at stake for North, Stevenson

By Brad Emons staff writer

The Western Lakes Activities Association girls swim championship is at stake when 12 schools compete Friday night at Plymouth Salem.

"This title means a lot to me," said Greg Phill, the coach of defending champion Livonia Stevenson.

"This is a good league for competition," said North Farmington coach Pat Duthie. "It's like a mini state meet. You've got to be a top swimmer even if you make it to the top 12, let alone the top six."

meeting, it appears to be a two-way battle for first between Stevenson and North, but the other 10 teams will be a factor in deciding first place.

"WE'RE SEEDDED only 11 points ahead of North," said Phill. "Everybody was wrong at the beginning of the year who said we were going to run away with it. We lost a lot of people. The league is just as deep as it ever was."

"North is a good team, as good as we are, no doubt. I think it's a matter of the other schools which could hurt you."

Added Duthie: "I think Stevenson is the favorite and we're the underdogs... sure. I believe some of

swimming

the other teams will do some good things. It's going to be who gets the most swimmers into the finals. Every team has at least one good swimmer."

Among the other schools that may be heard from are Westland John Glenn, Livonia Churchill, Northville, Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Salem.

But the big battle is shaping up between Stevenson and North.

ONE OF THE big matchups will occur in the 200 and 500-yard freestyles where North's Jennifer Rowe is seeded slightly ahead of Stevenson's Michelle McKenzie.

Another tight race will take place in the 50 freestyle, where Stevenson's Ann Bollinger and North's Marge Cramer tied last year. But also expected to make waves in that event are Farmington's Lauren Weary, Farmington's Catherine Tucker and Northville's Michelle Stevens.

The meet will have plenty of stars, including Stevenson's Sheila Taormina, one of the state's best in the 200 individual medley and 100 butterfly. She leads the area in four different events.

Churchill's Audra Martin is a standout in the 100 breaststroke and Glenn's Jamie Koester will be heard from in diving.

Canton's top swimmers are Cassie Cummins and Julie Cox, while Salem will rely on Shannon Murphy and Erin Olson.

"Depth will mean a lot," predicted Phill, whose team finished 10-2

in dual meets. "But some of the head-to-head races will be great. You'll see some fast swimming. I just hope our girls swim well."

DUTHIE, whose team's only dual meet loss of the season was to Stevenson, just wants to let it all hang out.

"At this point you put the kids in the water and see what happens," he said. "I don't know if there is any key area. Illness has been a problem with us all year. But we don't want to make excuses. We want to do the best we can and I'm confident we'll be doing that."

The championship and consolation finals begin at 7 p.m. Friday at Salem.

Marlins seek a simple trek toward rematch with Salem

THE GIRLS' ANSWER to March Madness begins tonight across the state when approximately 694 schools enter district play.

A few teams from Observerland should be heard from before it's all over, while others will die quietly and look forward to next year.

The Class A, B, C and D championship games will be staged at a different venue this year. Grand Valley State in Allendale takes over for Western Michigan's Reed Fieldhouse. The finals are slated for noon (Class D), 2 p.m. (A), 6 p.m. (C) and 7:30 p.m. (B) on Saturday, Dec. 13.

The Class A semifinals also will be held Friday, Dec. 12, at Grand Valley, with the other semifinal locales being Jenison (B), Grand Rapids Union (C) and Grand Rapids Kenova Hills (D) high schools.

The roads for some area schools will be easier than others. Prognosticators may have trouble picking the four state champions, but my money is on Plymouth Salem (A), Flint Beecher (B), Detroit St. Martin de Porres (C) and Peck (D).

Here's how Wall Street might analyze Observerland's area teams entering state tournament play.

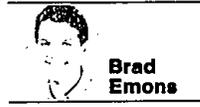
BLUE CHIP STOCK

Plymouth Salem (19-1): The Rocks are the area's hottest commodity because of three factors: A coach Fred Thomann, B) Dena Head, and C) fine supporting cast (Jessica Handley, Jill Estey, Kristen Hostynski and Keri McElride).

Salem is a good buy even though they'll face quality district competition and must get by Farmington Hills Mercy in a quarterfinal matchup. Only a suspect bench could keep the Rocks from winning it all.

GOOD INVESTMENTS

Farmington Hills Mercy (14-6): An easy district and an easy regional should put this team against Salem in the state quarterfinals Dec. 10 at



Brad Emons

Southfield. The Marlins have played a tough schedule and could have the revenge motive going for them in a



Jan Heberholz (42) and her Merlin mates are planning a long state tournament run for Mercy.

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