

## Sports

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(F10)

# Mistakes derail Hawks' title run

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

Here's why Farmington Harrison won't be playing football in the Pontiac Silverdome Saturday.

• Marysville, the Hawks' opponent in the state Class B semifinals at Flint Atwood Stadium Friday night, dominated the line of scrimmage. The Vikings gained 236 yards rushing. Harrison gained 19.

• Harrison, which had committed just four turnovers and three penalties in the two previous playoff games, committed four turnovers and was flagged eight times for 68 yards Friday night.

• The Hawks were victims of two bad breaks in one critical sequence, which led to Marysville's backbreaking touchdown in the fourth quarter.

• Marysville won the football game, 22-6. The Vikings will take on either Grand Rapids South Christian or Choboygan in the state championship game Saturday.

Harrison coach John Herrington offered up the bottom line: "Plain and simple. We just got our butts beat."

IT WAS FAR from vintage Harrison football. From the outset, the Hawks appeared tentative and flustered. Marysville, in contrast, seemed fearless and super-charged.

The Vikings stuffed Harrison's first offensive series. Then, on their second play from scrimmage, the Vikings' junior halfback Steve Foster romped off tackle for 69 yards and the game's first score. He broke three Harrison tackles along the way.

That opening sequence established two truths about this game. Harrison was not going to be able to run against Marysville and Marysville's Steve Foster was going to be able to run a lot. Foster accounted for all of Marysville's points (three TDs, an extra point and a field goal) while rushing for 153 yards in 20 carries.

"The name of this game is line play," said Marysville coach Walt Braun, who had just coached his 210th win. "We think we do a good job of teaching it. Offensively, our guys aren't very big but they do the job. Defensively, we aren't big either, but we are very quick."

Harrison had two successive first half drives end with turnovers. Harrison quarterback Mark Murray (12-of-22 for 171 yards and three interceptions) hit Mark Schmidt with two passes good for 60 yards, then another to Rocky Varacalli to get the Hawks to the Marysville 24. But Varacalli fumbled the ball away on the next play.

Next series Murray completed two passes for 14 yards. Then Tom Hornbacher intercepted him at the Marysville 20.

From there Marysville marched to the Hawks' 4 and settled for a 22-yard field goal from Foster.

## football

HARRISON HAD a chance to get on the board before the end of the half. Gary Schwedt recovered a fumble at the Marysville 33 with eight seconds left. Murray hit Schwedt with a sideline pass with four seconds left. Mark Calvaruso's 43-yard attempt, however, sailed wide to the left.

After some serious attitude adjusting by the coaching staff at halftime, a meaner, more intense band of Hawks took the field for the second half.

Marysville, in its first possession of the third quarter, tried to surprise Harrison with a quick kick on third down. Surprise! Harrison's Marc Hunter blocked the punt and John Bonasso recovered the loose ball at the Viking 24.

On the next play Murray hit a wide open Dave Krolleki in the end zone, 9-6.

Marysville gave the ball right back to Harrison. Jeff Skinner recovered a fumble at midfield and the Hawks appeared poised to overtake the Vikings.

Marysville and whatever fates were at work had other plans.

Harrison couldn't pick up a first down. Marysville took over at its 38. Here's where the two bad breaks broke Harrison's back.

ON A SECOND down and 8 play from the Harrison 32, quarterback Randy Socha fumbled. As he fell on the ball, Krolleki fell on him. The referee flagged Krolleki for intentional roughness. Instead of 3rd-and-8, it was first and 10 from the 17.

"That call really hurt us," Herrington said. "We thought we had them stepped. The kid fumbled and we were just going after the ball. That was just ridiculous."

It gets worse. Marysville got a first down at the 7. Harrison pushed the Vikings back to the 16. On fourth-and-goal from the 16, Socha threw an incomplete pass. However, a Harrison defender slipped and fell into the Marysville receiver. Pass interference. First down at the 8. Foster eventually ran it in from the 2.

For all intents and purposes, that was it for the Hawks. Foster's third TD, a 9-yard run with 1:40 left, was merely salt in the wound.

"You know, only four teams end the season happy," said Herrington. "Those are the four state champions. I'm proud that we were able to get this far. But I feel real bad we didn't play a better game."

The Hawks finish with a 10-2 record, a Western Lakes championship and a regional championship.



RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

Harrison quarterback Mark Murray runs away from Marysville's Wade Ulrich during the

Hawks' 22-6 defeat in the Class B semifinals Friday night at Flint Atwood Stadium.

## Farmington, North go down with fight

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

Put the basketballs away. Season's over.

Farmington Public School District's two representatives in the state's Class A girls basketball tournament were eliminated Saturday night at Northville.

Novi held off Farmington 54-43, while Northville ousted North Farmington 48-32.

Both teams went down fighting.

"Hey, we always play hard," said North coach Greg Capling, whose team finished with a 9-12 record. "We just don't have the people who can put the ball in the basket consistently. I've been proud of our effort all season. We have never lacked for intensity."

The Raiders hit just 13 of 44 shots from the floor against Northville. It was the only negative factor in the Raiders' performance and it proved fatal.

DEFENSIVELY, THE ballhawking Raiders forced 24 turnovers (20 in the second half) and pestered the Mustang shooters throughout the game. And despite a serious size disadvantage North Farmington held its own in the rebounding department.

The Raiders fell behind 26-12 at the half. In the third quarter Sandy Spahn and Mo O'Brien keyed a rockless Raider defense that succeeded in taking the Mustangs out of its patient, penetrating half court offense. At one stretch North forced seven consecutive turnovers. Spahn made two steals and forced two other turnovers in that sequence. But those seven turnovers resulted in only two points for North.

North got within 10 points with 2:46 left in the game, but the Mustangs outscored North 6-1 in the final two minutes.

O'Brien led North with nine points. Suzi Butcher added seven. Freshman Kim Gurek scored six key points during North's second-half run.

Northville (12-10) got 10 points from Tricia Ducker and eight each from Roxanne Serkanan and Julie Anger.

FARMINGTON'S PROBLEM against Novi was less of a physical nature. The Falcons looked unbeatable early on, racing to a 20-13 lead late in the second quarter. Then the roof caved in. Novi outscored Farmington 12-2 in the final 2:40 on the first half and never trailed again.

"We just went a little haywire," Falcons coach Diana Fair said. "It's been our problem all year. We have these lapses. If I knew why they happened, they wouldn't be happening."

"With this game, I think that the kids just weren't used to leading. We've been close in a lot of games, but when we took the lead it seemed like the kids just went a little wild. They started pressing and forcing things."

The Falcons fell behind 30-23 in the third quarter then regrouped. They pulled within a basket late in the quarter.

At that point Novi's Lisa McCarthy took over.

MCCARTHY MADE three consecutive steals and five unanswered points in the final minute of the third quarter. On the night, this speedy guard scored 34 points and made five steals.

McCarthy and Sandy Maloney (16 points) accounted for all but four of Novi's points.

The Falcons (2-19) made one more run at the Wildcats in the fourth quarter. They pulled within four, 45-41, with 3:26 left to play. McCarthy scored seven points as Novi ran off a 9-2 spurt to end the game.

Slaney Swanderski led the Falcons with 16 points. She scored 10 in the first quarter. Carrie Hale added 11. Kelli Koss added five points and played a strong floor game.

Novi (13-6) will play Northville at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday for the district championship.



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Mercy's Maria Dietz (22) shoots for two in Thursday's district victory over Redford Union.

## Mercy rolls youthful RU

By Bill Parker  
staff writer

Larry Baker was looking ahead.

The girls basketball coach at Farmington Hills Mercy wanted his team to work on the little things in its MHSAA District 12 girls basketball tournament opener on Thursday. Baker was looking for execution more than anything.

And, oh mercy, did the Marlins execute.

Using good shot selection, quick sharp passes and aggressive defense, the Marlins crushed Redford Union, 56-20, at Southfield High School.

"We knew Redford Union was a young team, and when you get this kind of a matchup you try to make it work for you," Baker said. "I was real happy with our press and our half court offense in the first half. We executed well. We wanted to polish our execution rather than run the break."

Jan Heberholz opened the game with four quick points for the Marlins. Mercy's pressure defense then went to work, forcing nine Redford turnovers. Yvette Malson dumped in six points, and Adrienne Clark added five more leading Mercy to a 22-0 advantage by the end of the first quarter.

"We knew coming in that Mercy was a good team," said RU coach Terri Anthony. "Mercy just intimidated us. The stigma alone of the name Mercy is enough to make you worry about them."

THE MARLINS ran off five points to open the second quarter before Caryn Shannon put the Panthers on the scoreboard with 5:29 remaining in the quarter.

With the starters resting on the bench, reserves Jenny Clinton and Maureen Scullen added buckets for the Marlins as Mercy marched ahead 31-4 by the halftime break.

Janine Sorel took charge for the

## girls basketball

Panthers in the third quarter. The sophomore guard scored six of Redford's nine points in the quarter. But she couldn't get the Panthers back into the game by herself.

Malson paced Mercy with six of her own as the Marlins outscored Redford 16-9 in the quarter to take a 47-13 lead.

Janine played what was probably her best game of the year for us tonight," said Anthony. "She's only a sophomore. By her senior year she's going to be a good one. I thought all of our freshmen played well tonight too. We knew this was going to be a rebuilding year and I think we've made a lot of progress."

Baker again went to the bench in the final quarter and the subs did an admirable job. Mercy hit five of eight from the charity stripe and, in turn, outscored RU 9-2 in the quarter to clinch a berth in the district championship game.

"I think it's real important to get some of the younger girls into these (post season) games," said Baker. "It really draws the players into the program. It's a nice luxury to give them a taste of the state tournament."

Malson paced the Marlins with 18 points. Heberholz added 10 for Mercy.

Sorel paved the way for Redford with 12 points.

The loss ends Redford's season at 4-16.

Mercy (15-6) will meet the winner of tonight's clash between Detroit Redford and Detroit Henry Ford in the District 12 championship game at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. The district champion advances to the Northville Regional.