

Sports

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Swarming defense — as displayed by Kurt Davis (No. 80), Mark Bonasso (No. 75), Gary Schwedt (No. 46) and Jeff Skinner (No. 82) against Detroit Northern — was a trademark of the Harrison

Hawks this season. For a second look at the Hawks season, turn to Page 2D.

Were the Hawks victimized by a writer's jinx?

Some final thoughts on the fall season...

ANYBODY NEED some passes to the state football finals at the Silverdome Saturday?

With Harrison and John Glenn playing in the semifinals, I was certain Observerland would be represented in the Dome this year. So did a lot of folks in the Farmington and Westland communities. Oh, well. It was a lot of fun while it lasted.

If Harrison wants a whipping boy, use me. I'm the jinx. It's been heart-break ever since I came on the scene. Listen to this:

The last time I worked the state finals in football was in 1982. I worked the famous Farmington Harrison-Dearborn Fordson game. I was covering Fordson. Fordson lost. The precedent was set.

Harrison's loss to Churchill in 1983? My fault. The loss to Fordson in 1984? Don't blame the mud or a kicker named Kamal Salame, or something like that. Uh-uh. My fault. Last year, the loss to Glenn? You guessed it. My fault.

It's not just the Hawks either. Farmington Hills Mercy won the state girls basketball championship the year before I got here. It hasn't won it since.

Take heart. I think I know what the problem is. It's my attitude. You see, in my heart I want my teams to win. I enjoy covering the state championship games. The sports editor before me, the legendary Tom Baer, had a different attitude. His motto was: The earlier the teams were eliminated, the less work there was to do. He had two state champions in the same fall season in 1982. You see, I need to adjust my mental approach to this job.

MORE ON THE HAWKS: I felt a little sorry for Dave Krollicki. He was cheated out of some statewide recognition because of a misprint in the program. Krollicki scored the Hawks' only points. He caught the 24-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter. But the program listed No. 87 as Tony Allen. Krollicki has wore jersey No. 87 all season. But the Detroit and outstate reporters didn't know that. Thus, throughout the state, Tony Allen got his name in the papers for scoring a TD.



Chris McCosky

Krollicki, in a sense, was lucky the Hawks didn't have to play another game. He may have been in line for some punitive measures from the Harrison coaching staff. You see, David performed a little high-stepping dance in the end zone following his TD. The Harrison coaches do not tolerate such tomfoolery from their players.

But the coaches couldn't be too upset with Krollicki. In many ways, Krollicki symbolized the strength of the Harrison football program. It seems every year the Hawks graduate a load of talented players. Every year a new bunch of unfamiliar faces and names step in to guide Harrison to its familiar spot atop the league and among the state leaders.

How does this happen? Look at Krollicki. He played very little as a junior. As a senior, he was one of the best two-way players in the area. Something happens to these guys between their junior and senior years. I think it has something to do with desire — the desire to maintain Harrison's standard of excellence. It also has something to do with superior coaching. Bob Sutter, Bob Sallow and John Herrington "teach" football as well as any staff in the state.

ON GIRLS HOOPS: Wednesday, Dec. 10, Southfield High School, I cannot wait. Barring a nuclear fallout or any other such cataclysmic event, Plymouth Salem and Farmington Hills Mercy will meet that night in the state Class A quarterfinals. Winner gets to take me to Grand Rapids. Mercy and Salem have made playing each other in the state tournament an annual event. Mercy has yet to lose to Salem in the state tournament.

Salem sure did put on a show for the large crowd at John Glenn last Thursday. The Rocks scored 20 points in the first half and fell behind John Glenn. Then the Rocks turned it

Please turn to Page 2

Salem vs. GC tonight

By Brad Emons
Staff writer

Even before the night was over at the Westland John Glenn gym, talk was turning to Wednesday's Class A district girls basketball final.

It will be Plymouth Salem (21-1) against Garden City (18-3) for the title, beginning at 7 tonight at Glenn. Both teams breezed through Monday night's semifinals, Salem whipping Livonia Churchill in the first game of a double-header, 62-18, while Garden City toppled Livonia Franklin in the nightcap, 66-43.

The two teams will not alter strategy for tonight's championship. Both teams plan to run the ball up and down the court, but Salem will be cast as the favorite.

"We can't change at this point," said Garden City coach Marshall Henry. "I don't think we can afford to play slow-motion, post-up basketball with Salem."

"It's our defense against their defense. We've got to make Salem earn their points every time down the floor."

SALEM COACH Fred Thomann added more insight to the matchup.

"When I look at Garden City, and I've watched them early and I've watched them late, they haven't made too many changes," he said. "I expect them to sit in a zone and run out of a zone. They have decent quickness at the guards. Not only do they have three good perimeter players, but they also have two good post players. They're a good basketball team when you let them be. We run our same stuff and just go at them."

Thomann expected a stiffer test from Churchill (12-9), but the Chargers launched shots from ozone range and kicked the ball around like it was soccer.

Liz Monroe's basket made it 2-2

Hawks ousted

It didn't happen this year. Maybe next year, though.

Farmington Harrison's girls basketball team, 78-41 losers to Royal Oak Shrine Monday night in the Class B district tournament at Shrine, will begin the 1987 season with the state's longest losing streak.

Monday's loss was the Hawks' 82nd straight.

Senior Maryann Cundy scored 18 points in her final game as a Hawk. Junior Lesley Devine, one of several young Hawks predicted to help snap the skid next year, added 13 points.

Danielle Smith led Shrine with 21.

FARMINGTON HILLS MERCY, the only girls basketball team in the Farmington area still alive in the state playoffs, will play Detroit Henry Ford for the Class A district championship at Southfield at 7:30 tonight. Ford knocked off Detroit Redford Monday, 55-32.

with 6:03 left in the first quarter, but then Salem scored 28 unanswered points and led 36-5 at the half.

All 10 Salem players scored with Dena Head and Jessica Handley tallying 18 each. The Rocks' other three starters — Kerri McBride (eight), Jill Estey (six) and Kristen Hostynski (six) combined for 20 points.

THE MARGIN OF VICTORY was a bit more substantial for the Rocks,

who beat Churchill by only six early in the season.

"This was a nice way to evaluate in terms of game No. 3 and game No. 22," said Thomann. "Obviously we didn't expect that kind of game. I thought it would be much closer, a lot more give and take. Once we got on a roll, they didn't get many good shots, it seemed."

Meanwhile, Garden City had a barrel full of shots in its victory over Franklin (7-14).

The Cougars led 13-9 after one quarter and then shot out to a 37-19 halftime lead, outscoring the pint-sized Patriots by 14 points in the second period.

Linda Lankford, the Cougars' 6-foot-1 senior center, poured in 18 points and made life miserable for Franklin on the boards.

She led a balanced scoring attack with three other Cougars in double figures — Terri Paul (14), Karen Sandman (13) and Denise Kokowicz (10). Shelly Malone came off the bench and added six.

"THE KEY TONIGHT was that Linda played the way she was supposed to play," Henry said. "We really worked hard with her the last few days on her aggressive, post-up moves. Tonight she was squaring up and was more patient."

"And Denise (Kokowicz) got us out of the gate fast. Sandman did a great job of running the offense and Terri Paul is coming around. She made some nice passes and played good defense. We had a lot of balance. They couldn't key on anybody."

Franklin was led by Rose Obey, who scored a team-high 14 points. Kathy Currow came off the bench to score 10 and senior Linda McCall finished with eight.

Other than Currow, the Patriots had a hard time getting shots off inside of Garden City's 3-2 zone.

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