

Sports

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Vikes press Falcons to the hilt

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Bad start, bad finish.
That was all there was to it Thursday night at Farmington as Walled Lake Central pounded the Falcons 57-38.

No matter how you look at it, it wasn't pretty.
The Falcons committed 11 first-quarter turnovers, six straight at one point. But thanks to some torrid outside shooting by Steve Howell, Farmington only trailed by five at the end of the quarter and seven at the half. Howell scored 12 of his game-high 16 points in the first 16 minutes.

Seven points was as close as the Falcons could get, however. Central scored six straight points to open the second half. The Falcons never recovered.

Farmington missed 14 straight shots in the final quarter and didn't score a field goal.

"WE JUST lack experience," said Farmington coach Bob Kaump. "Steve Howell is the only player we have that played at all on varsity last year. We just have to pick up our intensity some to overcome our inexperience."

Defense of the Falcons, they were without two starters. Junior William Reese is out with an injury and Brandon London was suspended after being ejected from the John Glenn game last week.

The loss of those players pained

basketball

Farmington Central ruined Farmington with a three-quarter court press. The Falcons struggled all night to bring the ball upcourt. Both Reese and London are guards.

"Their press hurt us really bad," Kaump said. "We couldn't get the ball down the floor. We were just too impatient."

WALLED LAKE Central's scoring was well distributed. Mark O'Hanlon scored 14 points. Steve Wright scored 12. Layne Herrington added nine and Kevin Harrell eight.

It was Herrington, son of Farmington Harrison football coach John Herrington, who triggered the fatal six-point burst at the start of the second half. Wright hit a jumper to start it. Herrington made a steal and scored a layup. He tipped the ensuing in-bounds pass away, got it back and made a nice reverse layup — six points in less than 15 seconds.

The win improves Central's Western Lakes record to 2-1, 2-2 overall. Farmington falls to 1-2 in the league, 1-4 overall.

JOHN GLENN 48, N. FARMINGTON 43: Westland John Glenn has never enjoyed playing basketball in the North Farmington gym. Thursday night was no exception.

The powerful Rockets had all they

wanted with a patient and determined band of Raiders. One lapse, as it turned out, did the Raiders in.

Glenn exploded in the second quarter with a 19-9 run. Try as it might, North could never overcome that spread.

Each team connected on 20 field goals. Glenn, however, hit 8 of 14 free throws while North made 3-of-5. Andy Graziulis scored 18 points for Glenn (4-0). Steve Hawley added 11.

For North (1-2 in the Western Lakes, 2-3 overall), Ron Knapp scored 12 and Rick Karcher eight.

HARRISON 48, NORTHVILLE 44: A stellar performance by 6-8 center Brad Ridgeway helped the Hawks bounce back from Tuesday's blowout loss to Glenn.

Ridgeway scored 15 points, grabbed eight rebounds, blocked eight shots and provided some late minute heroics to seal victory for Farmington Harrison.

The Hawks led 46-44 in the final minute. Ridgeway blocked a shot from long range then drained two free throws with two seconds left.

Scott Bissell, who scored 13 points, nailed two big baskets down the stretch. Mike Karoly dished out eight assists.

Harrison (2-1 in the Western Lakes, 3-2 overall) led 30-16 at half. Northville (1-2, 3-2) got back in the game with a 14-6 run in the third quarter.

Steve Grant (18 points) and Dave

McCreedy (16) led the Mustangs. Northville was outscored from the free-throw line 12-4.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

and didn't back down.

"They were pounding each other inside. There were screens that looked like blocks," Brodie added. "It was a real physical game."

Stevenson head coach Jim McIntyre agreed with Brodie.

"It was a very aggressive game. There were a lot of kids out on the floor," McIntyre said. "That's where the ball ended up and that's where the kids went."

While the teams may have battled to a draw as far as the rough stuff was concerned, it was all Salem when it came to the basketball game.

SALEM LED by three, 11-8, after the first quarter. The Rocks then opened it up in the second quarter, outscoring the Spartans 26-15 to take a commanding 37-23 halftime lead.

The second quarter surge was led by Salem's Mike Hale and Rick Taylor. The 6-foot-5 Hale scored nine of his game-high 26 points in the second quarter. Taylor, a 6-7 center, poured in eight of his 14 points in the quarter.

Stevenson was paced by senior forward Rich Gregor with 11 points. Both Eric Johnson and Lars Richters added 10 points each.

In the second half, Salem used much of its bench and coasted to the

easy 26-point win. Ten Rock players

got their names in the scorebooks.

"We played catch-up all game," McIntyre said. "When you play catch-up you're always pushing, and when you do that you tend to make mistakes."

"We just never got on track tonight," he added. "Salem played awfully well. They shot real well and they definitely dominated the boards."

SALEM OUTBOUNDED Stevenson 33-20 on the night. Hale grabbed 12 boards to pace the Rocks, including six on the offensive end.

But maybe even more important was the Rocks' shooting. Salem hit on 29 of 51 shots from the floor. And at the line, where the Rocks spent a good deal of the game, Salem was 19 of 25. Stevenson, on the other hand, shot just 18 of 46 from the floor and a dismal 5 of 11 from the line.

"We were forcing (Stevenson) to take a lot of outside jumpers," Brodie said. "Early on they were making them. But it's hard to live and die by the outside jumper."

"We've gotten better every game we've played. Out of the five games this has played, this has to be our best."

Steve Howell's hot hand kept Farmington in contention early against Walled Lake Central Thursday night. He finished with 16 points.

Rocks crush Stevenson

By Ken McDonald
special writer

Maybe it's appropriate that Plymouth Salem's wrestling team plays its home meets in the Rocks' gymnasium.

It was in that same gym Thursday night that Salem and Livonia Stevenson met in a Western Lakes Activities Association boys basketball game. But for much of the contest, it appeared the two schools were locked in a fierce wrestling match, with the opposition the center of attention.

And when the sprawling bodies were pulled from the floor, Salem came away with a convincing 71-45 win.

The victory leaves the Rocks with a 4-1 overall mark and a perfect 3-0 WLAAC record. Stevenson fell to 2-3 on the year and 1-2 in the WLAAC.

THERE WAS no mat, but sometimes as many as five or six players were on the floor scrambling for a loose ball. Add to that the play under the boards, and you couldn't blame either side for nursing a few bumps and bruises after the battle.

"I didn't think it would be as physical a game as it was," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "Our kids

wrestling

Raiders pin down Spartans

North Farmington stopped Livonia Stevenson's win streak in wrestling on Wednesday, defeating the Spartans in a Western Lakes Conference encounter, 42-27.

Stevenson is 4-1 overall, while North increased its dual meet record to 2-3.

Heavyweight Ian Sherbin of North scored the fastest pin of the meet, taking down Philippe Burney in 41 seconds.

Other North victories were scored by Dave Apple (112 pounds), who defeated Tony Psadell, 11-8; Matt Thompson (119), who defeated Atilla Omar, 6-4; Bill Murley (126), who pinned Curtis Hagen, 4:29; Paul Cook (145), who pinned Jerod Wilkinson, 2:48; Corey Bartsch (167), who pinned Jim Gibson; Dan Starrs (185), who pinned Vern Schipper, 1:06; and Craig Barany, who pinned Matt Sladak, 3:30.

The Raiders were also helped by a pair of Stevenson voids with Randy Davis (98) and David Wojciehowski (105) winning on walkovers.

Stevenson winners included Kurt Wahl (132), who won on a technical fall over Doug Hoyt; Tom Tokarz (138), who pinned Adam Kahn in 57 seconds; and Mike Farr (155), who defeated Neil Budman, 9-4.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN remained unbeaten (5-0) with an easy 57-6 win at Farmington.

Glenn took three matches by void as Rob Krazel (105), Bill Richards (138) and Chris Zimmerman (heavyweight) all got credit for victory.

On the mat, Glenn winners include Brian Ostrowski (112), technical fall; Bryan Krazel (119), 6-1 decision; Rob Matigan (126), pin in 5:24; Jeff Allen (130), 2-0 decision; Rob Schalhout (145), 11-5 decision; Mark Stabile (155), pin in 5:47; and Abe Zakheim (185), pin in 2:47.

The lone Farmington winners were Bob Woodbeck (132), who won a 9-8 decision, and Bill Lindbert (167), who defeated his Glenn opponent, 6-2.

PLYMOUTH SALEM finished second in the championship in the Westland John Glenn Invitational, but the Rocks turned the tables Thursday night in a double-duty meet, defeating the Eagles, 40-21, and Livonia Churchill, 45-21.

Success spoil Craig Morton? No way

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

YEP. STILL the same old Craig Morton.

He's home for the holidays and more than a little red-faced as he greets some of his neighbors and friends. You see, his proud mother has been busy showing everybody his newspaper clippings and the awards he won at Dartmouth this year.

Craig thinks maybe his mom might be overdoing it a bit.

Same old unassuming, unpretentious Craig Morton. Same guy who "aw-shucked" his way through a brilliant football and academic career at Plymouth Salem. Same guy who, when told he had been named the first Plymouth-Canton Observer Athlete of the Year, said: "No. You're kidding? No. Oh, that's just great, just great."

Success has not spoiled Craig Morton. Never will.

IN CASE you haven't heard, Morton had himself a pretty nice football season at Dartmouth this past fall. It was his first season on varsity. Here's what he did:

- He caught 44 passes for 1,063 yards. That's a 24.2 yards-per-catch average. Both the 1,063 yards and 24.2 average are single-season Dartmouth records.
- He caught 10 touchdown passes. That, too, is a single-season

record at Dartmouth.

- One of those TD catches went for 99 yards. That is an Ivy League record (the old mark was held by Gary Fenick of the Chicago Bears) at Dartmouth record and it ties the national record.

- He averaged 106.3 total yards per game and his average TD catch went for 46.6 yards.

- He is fifth on Dartmouth's all-time receiving list after one season.
- He was named Rookie of the Year in both the Ivy League and the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference. And he was the first wide receiver to win a unanimous selection to the first team all-ECAC squad. He was also first team all-Ivy League.

- He was named to the national all-academic all-America second team.

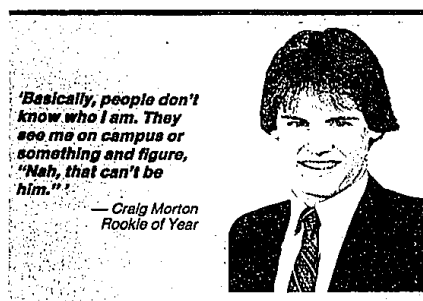
Yep. Pretty nice season.

FOR ALL his accomplishments, though, Craig Morton remains just another face in the campus crowd.

"It's funny, there aren't really any big newspapers out there (Hanover, N.H.). Nobody finds out anything," Morton said. "We're kind of secluded. Once in a while there might be a paragraph in the Boston Globe, especially when we play Harvard."

"But basically, people don't really know who I am. They see me on campus and figure, 'Nah, that can't be him.'"

Opposing coaches throughout the Ivy League know who Craig Morton



is, however. Listen to this:

"It's enough to give any coach nightmares," said Cornell coach Maxie Baughman.

"There is just no way to cover that kid one-on-one. I'll say this about the kid, he's as fast as anything I've seen on two feet in a long time," said New Hampshire coach Bill Bowers.

"We knew we couldn't stop him because no one else has," said Carm Coyle, Yale coach.

"If a player can generate a legend after only a single season, then Craig Morton was a legend this

year," said an ECAC official during the presentation of the Rookie of the Year award.

CRAG MORTON probably blushed.

"I don't think I have all this in perspective yet," he said. "The quotes from the coaches were really a surprise to me."

However overwhelmed Morton may be with the array of accolades, his life away from football remains in solid order.

"It took a while for me to adjust,"

he said. "If it wasn't for football I would have died out there last year. I didn't know anyone at first and most of the people were into drinking and getting hammered every night and that's not me. I more or less lived for football that first year."

"This past year was much better. I have some good friends now, and I'm involved with a Christian organization on campus. I'm much more comfortable now."

Morton had to carve out his own niche socially. Eight of every 10 students at Dartmouth belong to a fraternity. Morton does not.

"That's just not my way. I just don't feel the need to belong to a fraternity. I thought that might have an effect on me in football. Most of the Juniors and seniors belonged, and with me being a sophomore and not being in a fraternity, I thought there might be a problem. But there wasn't. The guys on the team were great. We got along fine."

IT TOOK awhile for the Dartmouth coaches and players to catch on to Morton's ability. By his own admission, he doesn't much look like a football player — until someone throws a football his way.

"I've got some long strides and, when I run, it's deceptive," Morton said. "At first, the quarterbacks were under-throwing me. They said it didn't look like I was going that

fast."

Opposing defensive backs had the same problem.

"I don't think the cornerbacks knew I could go deep," Morton said. "But they found out soon enough."

The season wasn't three weeks old when Morton began drawing double and triple coverage.

AS IMPRESSIVE as the 1986 football season was for Morton, 1987 might be like starting over. Two key people will be gone from the program. Quarterback Dave Gaglianelli, one of the finest passers in the team's history, will graduate. And head coach Joe Yukica has resigned.

"New quarterback, new head coach — it sure will be different," Morton said.

Watch Dartmouth hire a wish-bone-oriented coach, someone suggested.

"Oh, don't say that," Morton said with a laugh.

Why not. Morton broke all of Plymouth Salem's receiving records in two years and everyone knows that the Rocks run the wishbone.

The point is — regardless of who the coach is next season, regardless of who wins the quarterback job — Dartmouth College isn't likely to waste a human resource as valuable as Craig Morton.

No way.