

Sports

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Hawks stay on ground to thump Chiefs

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

As one would expect of a football team ranked No. 1 in the state, Farmington Harrison has many offensive weapons.

The Hawks chose to use the ground troops Friday to march past outmanned Plymouth Canton 35-0. Air cover wasn't needed as the Harrison juggernaut amassed 343 yards rushing.

"We didn't throw the ball well early, and the ground game was going so well we just kinda sat on the ball," Hawks coach John Herrington said.

Harrison, the top-ranked outfit in Class B, has been equally adept at taking apart opposing defenses with its passing game en route to its 5-0 record. But the blustery wind that blew through Centennial Educational Park was another reason for both teams to avoid the pass.

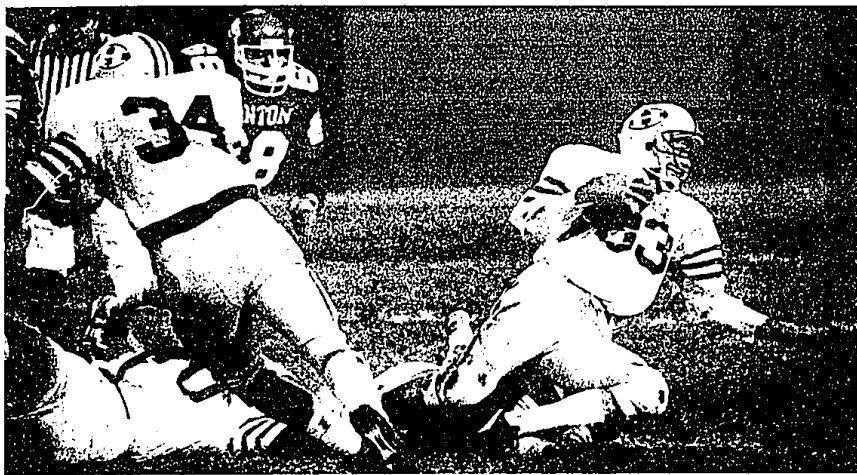
Quarterback Millard Coleman had two passes that would have gone for long gainers dropped by receivers in the first half, and he ended up 2-of-6 for 30 yards. On this night, the sophomore had more yards rushing (37 on six carries) than he did passing.

"WITH THAT cross-wind up there, we weren't sure where the ball was going," Herrington said. "We really didn't need to use (Coleman's) arm tonight."

"But the great thing is somebody always is able to step in and give us a lift."

That player was tailback Aaron Yaverski, who had another strong game playing in place of the injured flick Witte. He was the workhorse in the Hawks' offense, slashing and bulging his way to a game-high 178 yards on 21 attempts, and his 71-yard sprint for a touchdown was the game-breaker.

Yaverski was the rushing leader, but he didn't do it all. Fullbacks Rich Esker and Rob Bruhn combined for



Harrison's Aaron Yaverski (33) rushed for 178 yards to lead the Hawks to their fifth straight victory Friday, a 35-0 defeat of

Plymouth Canton. Teammate Rob Bruhn (34), blocking for Yaverski, also scored a TD.

63 yards and scored the other TDs on short plunges. Esker from 2 and 1 yard and Bruhn from 3. Plus, sophomore Matt Conley came on to add 41 yards late in the game.

"They have very good balance — and you know they execute," said Canton coach Bob Khoenle, impressed by Harrison's overall play.

"THEY'VE got a lot of things going for them. They have tradition, they've been successful and they

have a great program. Out of that comes good execution."

Besides being an underdog, the Chiefs, who slipped to 1-2 in the Western Division and 2-3 overall, were further handicapped when 10 players, including quarterback Neil Hubert, missed the game for disciplinary reasons.

Furthermore, center Jerry French was out with a leg contusion, and Canton's game-breaking threat, halfback Roger Trice, went out early in

the second quarter with an ankle injury.

"We won't pretend that we beat their best," said Herrington, "but we did what we had to do."

To its credit, Canton held the Hawks, who have scored no less than 31 points in any game, to one of their smaller halftime leads, 14-0.

HARRISON went 71 yards in 11 plays to score the first time it had the ball, but the Chiefs forced two

the second quarter with an ankle injury.

points and survived a fumbled punt before the Hawks could score again.

Harrison recovered the punt at Canton's 12-yard line, but the defense held and Steve Hill missed a 27-yard field goal attempt.

The Hawks, however, had good field position too often and finally capitalized. Starting at the Chief 44, they capped another drive with Bruhn's TD with 2:10 left in the half.

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Khoenle said. "We didn't move the ball, but defensively our kids didn't do too bad."

"BUT WE never stay at the same level," he added. "We're most consistent at being inconsistent."

Compared to other Harrison opponents, the Chiefs were hanging in at halftime, but that changed quickly when Yaverski raced past all defenders on the first play of the third quarter. Suddenly, it was 21-0 when Hill booted his third of five point-after-kicks.

The Hawks, who lead the division with a 3-0 record, scored early in the final period following their longest drive of the night — 80 yards in 12 plays, running the ball all the way.

Reserve quarterback Rob MacDonald, who was 2-of-2 passing for 32 yards, threw an 18-yarder to Bryon Wauldron for the final TD with 3:28 remaining.

Not to be overlooked was Harrison's defense, which held Canton to 52 yards in total offense, all of it rushing. Joel Riggs carried eight times for 25 yards.

THE CHIEFS ran just 29 offensive plays, attempted two passes and made only two first downs to Harrison's 19.

"Our defense is great this year," Herrington said. "We pursue real well, and we're physical. We're a pretty aggressive team."

"The defense was disappointed it gave up two touchdowns last week (in a 31-15 win over Walled Lake Western), and they wanted to make up for it this week."

The Hawks will be host to Livonia Churchill for homecoming Saturday, and Canton travels to Livonia Franklin for a 1 p.m. Saturday game.

Farmington drops turnover-plagued game

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Bo Schembechler would have cringed at the number of turnovers committed by Farmington and Livonia Stevenson in Saturday's Lakes Division football game.

But he also would have been quite pleased with the visiting Spartans' ability to control the ball in the second half.

After capitalizing on one of six Falcon turnovers and having rid itself of fumbleitis, Stevenson's offense hogged the ball for the duration en route to a 20-0 victory.

"There's a rule in coaching football," Spartans coach Jack Reardon said. "When you get a punt blocked, fumble the ball and have interceptions, you've got to be very, very fortunate to win a ballgame."

The Spartans lost three first-half fumbles and had only 28 yards at halftime when the 49 gained on those plays was subtracted.

advantage of those opportunities and, instead, gave it back to Stevenson each time. For the game, the Falcons had four passes intercepted and lost two fumbles.

It was a turnover that led to Stevenson's first touchdown. After the Spartans fumbled a pass at the Farmington 1, Nick Petouhoff intercepted and returned it 30-plus yards for the score.

It remained 7-0 through halftime as neither team's offense could sustain any drives.

"It was very disappointing after a great first half," Farmington coach Dave Catherman said. "We gave them one and played nice, inspiring football."

Before its offense got on track, the second half began the same way the first ended for Stevenson, 2-1 in the division and 3-2 overall.

THE SPARTANS had a punt blocked and a pass intercepted on their first two possessions of the third quarter. But then Steven-

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son's offense went to work, playing a decisive role in the time remaining.

As evidence, the Spartans ran 40 offensive plays to Farmington's 14 in the second half. Stevenson had 237 of its 214 yards in total offense in the second half. By contrast, the Falcons, with too few opportunities, had 23 of their 92 after halftime.

"The stats just tell the story," Catherman said. "They dominated the ball in the second half. Ball control — that's the name of the game."

"Coach Reardon always makes good halftime adjustments, and that's pretty obvious with their 200 yards in the second half."

After forcing a Falcon punt following their fourth and final turnover, the Spartans put together a 13-play, 62-yard march for a 13-0 lead.

EVEN 25 yards in penalties couldn't halt the drive. A clipping penalty put Stevenson back to the Farmington 29, but Joe Carter passed 24 yards to Mike Klaska to set up the 1-yard plunge.

The Spartans moved the ball on their next possession, too, but three 15-yard penalties finally stopped the push. Stevenson, however, added a final TD on Rob Chanko's 36-yard run with 1:40 to play.

Considering the way his team played early, Reardon said he wasn't sure the issue was settled until late despite Farmington's offensive inability.

"Whenever we come here on a Saturday afternoon, we know we're going to be in a football game," he said. "I thought their defense did a very good job (early) against the

run. We didn't move the ball on them real well."

Stevenson's problems were not the result of a letdown against the Falcons, 1-2 and 1-4, after an emotional win over Westland John Glenn the previous week, Reardon added.

"YOU DO worry about playing anybody after a game like last Friday," he said. "Our kids were sky high, and I don't know if we'll ever get them back up there again. We certainly hope so."

Petouhoff, who intercepted two passes and recovered two fumbles, rushed 13 times for 88 yards, and Chanko had a game-high 119 yards on 23 carries. Carter was 3-of-9 passing for 65 yards.

Farmington's Dave Dunn managed 21 yards on 15 attempts, and quarterbacks Brad Campbell and Joe Johnston were 3-of-17 for 38 yards. Bill Lindbert had two fumble recoveries and one interception.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Harrison's Jason Tratechoud, who surveys the fairway as he prepares to tee it up, won medalist honors with a 40.

Falcons take 4th city title

By C.J. Riska
staff writer

Golf can be aggravating on the best of days. Try playing it in weather that suddenly transforms from a test of skill to an endurance trial.

On Friday it was Farmington's team that proved most enduring. The Falcons edged their city rivals to win their fourth consecutive city championship.

Farmington finished with 214, just one stroke ahead of Harrison (215). North was last with 222.

"No one really burned up the course," said Farmington coach Gene Schoenlech. "It was more like a survival test."

THE MATCH was supposed to be played Wednesday at Godwin Glen Golf Course. The match was also supposed to be 18 holes.

It was neither. Any players relishing the challenge of competing for the city crown were forced to put those feelings on hold when the weather interfered.

The three coaches decided to make it a nine-hole match and to play it at San Marino. That proved a smart move, considering Friday's high winds, low temperatures and constant threat of rain.

"You can see the scores were high," Schoenlech said. "And it was cold and terribly windy."

No one broke 40 on the par-36 course. Medalist honors were cap-

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tured by Harrison's Jason Tratechoud, who shot 40.

BUT FARMINGTON had better overall balance. All five of the Falcons' scorers were between 41 and 44, starting with Craig Abernethy with a 41.

Following Abernethy were Darin Magera (42), Mike Nolan (43) and Brian Chouinard and Jason Wright (44 each).

Harrison's other four scorers were Wes Potts and Mike Jacques (42 each), Jason McDonnell (45) and Tim Story (46).

North's leader was Larry LaPorte with 42. Steve Wendt was next (44), followed by Scott Millman and Tom Seremet (45 each) and Rob Wendt (46).

The win gave Farmington one other thing besides another city title: By beating North, the Falcons are second in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Lakes Division. They could tie Plymouth Salem for first if the unbeaten (4-0 in Lakes Division play) Risks lose their dual-meet finale to Livonia Stevenson.

All three Farmington teams will compete in Monday's 18-hole WLAA championship tournament at Huron Meadows Golf Course, near Brighton.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington's Craig Abernethy shot 41 at San Marino Golf Course to lead the Falcons to their fourth straight city championship.