

Falcons succumb to Rocks

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

What's this? Plymouth Salem throwing the football? And out of the wishbone no less?

Some may have thought coach Tom Mosheimer had changed his philosophy Friday night when the ground-oriented Rocks passed for 127 yards and two touchdowns in a 35-21 homecoming victory over Farmington.

"I have nothing against throwing the ball," said Mosheimer while taking some good-natured kidding from his assistants afterward, "as long as we can move it by throwing it."

"Now I'm not going to throw it just to throw the football, but the situation was right to throw the ball. And we showed we could throw it — a little bit."

Quarterback Steve Hott lofted TD passes of 26 and 35 yards to Kevin Cousino and Chris Forsythe, respectively, to give Salem a 28-7 lead and break the game open.

BUT, NOT to disappoint those who believe foremost in the running game, the Rocks still had more yards rushing (218) than passing, and four backs had 30 yards or more.

Doug Parrish, who gave a good performance in his role as the starting fullback, was the leader with 53 yards on eight carries and scored the game's first TD on a 32-yard run.

Garrett Bowie and Ryan Johnson, who made an initial impact running the ball before moving to quarterback in the second half, scored Salem's other TDs and had 48 and 44 yards, respectively.

"When (opponents) gang up to stop the run, they open themselves up for you to throw the ball," Mosheimer said. "We get 1-on-1 coverage most of the time, and any coach in the country feels he's got a good chance to pass under those conditions."

The Rocks seemed well in control, but Farmington cut the deficit in half after recovering a blocked punt at the Salem 6-yard line. The Rocks came close to keeping the Falcons out of the end zone, but Brian Perkins went over fourth down from a yard out.

That altered the situation, but only momentarily. Salem went 66 yards with the kickoff to take a 21-7 lead into halftime.

The Rocks ran the ball on the first eight plays, and then Hott hit Cousino on the next play for the score.

"I FELT we would have control of the football game," Mosheimer said, "but we had a breakdown on the punt and took too much getting the ball away."

"But we got another one just before the half, and that was the key."

"North and Glenn are two of the finest teams in the area, and (Friday's opponent Livonia) Stevenson is right there, too," North and Glenn gained more yards than we did, and I guess they deserved to win."

"But I think we're right there with them, and I think we're there with Stevenson," he added. "We look forward to playing them."

While the Falcons failed to cross the 50-yard line under their own



Nick Maisel darts past a Salem defender and goes 80 yards for a touchdown Friday night. Maisel's score came too late in the game, however, to affect the outcome. The Falcons lost 35-21 to their Lakes Division opponent.

BILL DRESLER/staff photographer

power in the first quarter, Salem turned their second and third fumbles into TDs and was up 14-0 after 12 minutes.

PARRISH, A 5-foot-10, 195-pound junior, went over the left side on an option carry, but nobody was there to challenge him. He was into the secondary before anybody noticed him, and he won a foot race with a halfback.

Bowie dashed 13 yards on his first carry of the game and capped Salem's next possession with a 12-yard TD in the first period. He was ill earlier in the week and didn't start the game.

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Farmington's troubles continued in the second half as their first two possessions ended with lost fumbles. Salem, getting the ball at the Falcon 41 and 44, scored each time as a result, and the Rocks were safely in front, 35-7, with 2+ minutes left in the third quarter.

Johnson picked up the first down on fourth-and-1 at the 31, but a holding penalty pushed the Rocks back. Hott, however, threw a perfect strike to Forsythe down the right sideline on the next play.

Johnson, a 6-2, 190-pound sophomore, was at quarterback on the next possession. After throwing the back-to-back passes covering 46 yards to Bowie and Forsythe, he capped the drive with a 4-yard keeper.

"I won't hesitate to use Johnson if the situation is right, but Steve Hott is our quarterback," Mosheimer said. "(Johnson) is the quarterback of the future."

THE FALCONS had their spirits lifted when Nick Maisel sprinted 80 yards on first down to score Farmington's second TD. He finished with 98 yards on seven carries.

Farmington copied Salem's tactics when Mike Neal fell on a fumble and the Falcons mounted an 11-play scoring drive. Joe Johnston passed twice for first downs, and Maisel scored the TD on a 2-yard run.

Hott was 5-of-10 passing for 81 yards, and Mike Boyd added 34 yards rushing. Farmington had 96 yards passing and 157 rushing.

Salem girls have best times

Jenny Sample and Kim Mishler turned in season-best times Thursday to lead Plymouth Salem's girls cross country team past Westland John Glenn 23-35.

Ginger Rowland of Glenn managed to surpass the efforts of the Salem girls, but Sample and Mishler had the better supporting cast.

Rowland posted a first-place time of 20:10 followed by Sample in second (20:35) and Mishler in third (21:03).

The Rocks captured two of the next three places, but Shannon Donnelly's fifth-place finish (21:37) kept the Rocks clinging to a 10-11 lead.

The difference proved to be Salem's Traci Thomas, Beth Cunningham and Kristie Cieslak taking the Nos. 7-9 places. The latter didn't contribute to the team scoring, but played a crucial role as a blocker. The trio had respective times of 22:12, 22:30 and 22:41 on Glenn's course.

North displays talent in victory

North Farmington showed why it is one of the premier swim teams in the Western Lakes Activities Association Thursday, defeating Plymouth Salem 101-70 in the loser's pool.

The Raiders, 3-0 in the league and 5-0 overall, simply had too much talent and depth for the Rocks, 2-1 and 3-3.

"They look like the team to beat," Salem coach Chuck Olson said.

Laurie Oswald and Cindy Cramer, with a pair of individual wins to their credit and a hand in a relay victory, were North's leaders.

Oswald posted winning times of 2:03.1 and 5:27.8 in the 200- and 500-yard freestyles, and Cramer prevailed in the individual medley and breaststroke with times of 2:18.0 and 1:01.1, respectively.

In the order they swam, Jossie Kemer, Cramer, Oswald and Amy Menicelli defeated the Rocks in the freestyle relay (3:58.3).

Three members of North's winning medley relay team had the Raiders' three remaining individual firsts.

In the relay, however, Liz Worthen, Mary Mulbarger, Kerry Doran and Jenny Smith combined for a 2:03.1 performance.

Worthen then won the backstroke (1:09.5), Mulbarger the butterfly (1:06.3) and Doran the 50 freestyle (27.0).

Salem's Debbie Fry had 141.65 points to finish on top in diving, and Tracy Meszaros' 100 freestyle time

swimming

of 1:00.0 proved unbeatable.

MERCY 104, CANTON 68: Farmington Mercy's medley relay team and freestyle swimmer Becky Wiquist met state qualifying times as the Marlins whipped a good Plymouth Canton team last Tuesday.

Roberta Orr, Amy Cetnar, Liz DeMatila and Karen Neyer posted a 1:57.01 time in the relay and will compete Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4-5, in the Class A meet.

Wiquist was second to Canton's Nicole Drake in the 200 freestyle, but her runner-up time of 2:00.25 was good enough to qualify her for state, too. Drake set a school record with her time of 2:00.19.

Orr, a triple winner with her part in the relay, swam her best time of the season in the individual medley at 2:15.14, and she also won the breaststroke in 1:13.18.

Mercy's Mary Quinn and DeMatila were double winners, Quinn capturing the 50 and 100 freestyles in 27.39 and 1:00.15 and DeMatila, in addition to the relay victory, winning the butterfly in 1:04.93.

The Marlins won seven of the 11 events as Erica Campbell, one of the top-ranked divers in Olmsteadland, took that event with 217.65 points.

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