

Sports

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Glenn defense halts Harrison, 14-6

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Westland John Glenn put together a case for the defense Friday night that would make famous lawyer F. Lee Bailey shudder.

The Rockets shunned any ideas of picaresque bargaining en route to a 14-6 football victory over previously unbeaten and defending Western Lakes Activities Association champion Farmington Harrison, the state's No. 1 ranked Class B team.

It was Glenn's second WLA title in three years. It also puts the Rockets (7-1) in position to gain their third straight Class A state playoff berth.

Glenn, however, must beat rival Wayne Memorial (6-2) this week to have a shot at post-season play.

For Harrison (7-1), a team which has already locked up a berth in Class B, it was a night of missed opportunities.

But Glenn's defense had a major say in the final outcome, making a tremendous stand in the final minutes to preserve the upset win.

"THIS ONE WAS special because a month ago nobody thought we could do this after we lost a tough, hard-fought game (14-9) to a good Livonia Stevenson team," said Glenn coach Chuck Gordon. "I thought we had a chance coming in. You just hope to make the plays when it's winning time and we were able to do that."

Harrison never had the advantage, but made a bid to send the game into overtime.

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Trailing by eight, the Hawks marched down to the Glenn 16-yard line with just over four minutes to play, but couldn't move the ball any deeper after fleet-footed sophomore quarterback Millard Coleman was sacked on third down by Mark Bauschatz and on fourth down by Joe Jazrawi.

All Glenn then needed to do was run out the clock, but the Rockets handed the ball right back to the Hawks on a fumble at the 16.

"All I wondered about was how we were going to stop them for the two-point after they scored," Gordon said. "We were not in a good situation."

BUT HARRISON was left stranded on the Glenn 13 as three straight Coleman passing attempts sailed incomplete.

Glenn took the ball again with 2:55 remaining and got a pair of first downs, both on runs by bruising fullback Bryant Satterlee, clinching the victory.

"I'd had to watch the film, but I'm sure they did a good job containing us offensively," said Harrison coach John Herrington. "We had two chances and didn't put it in. They had some pressure on us, but I'm disappointed we didn't move the ball better when we got down there."

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Harrison defenders swarm to the football in Friday night's Western Lakes championship game. The Hawks, 7-1, were beaten by Westland John Glenn 14-6 and suffered their first defeat. Harrison has won four of six WLA titles, but has lost two of the last three to Glenn.

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ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

Raiders cash in Franklin fumbles

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Field position is an important aspect of any football game, but especially so in the mud and rain Saturday afternoon at North Farmington.

The Raiders, 7-1 overall, punched out short scoring drives, turning two Livonia Franklin fumbles into touchdowns for a come-from-behind, 14-7 victory.

The Patriots, however, struck early in the game and had North reeling since a 7-0 deficit on a wet, sloppy field wouldn't be easily overcome.

Franklin, 4-4, scored its only touchdown on its first offensive play, using a bit of trickery in the form of the halfback pass. Brian Drabick's toss to Joe Ramsley covered 51 yards for the score.

"The kids asked me if they could use it on the first play, which I'd been thinking about," Patriots coach Armando Vigna said. "But, with the weather, I said 'forget it.' But then it stopped raining just before the game, and I knew if we were going to do it the first play was the time to use it."

"JOE WAS so wide open I was afraid Brian might throw it too far, too wide or too short. That's been our luck this year. But it was perfect."

When the Raiders attempted a double pass on their opening series, Vigna said he was smiling to himself, knowing he and North coach Jim O'Leary were thinking the same thing.

Ironically, all the scoring came through the air as North's Scott Simon later passed for both Raider touchdowns. He ended up 7-of-13 for 61 yards, which proved to be a major plus for North, considering the conditions and Franklin's defense against the run.

"They brought 7-8 men up to the line and went

football

after us, which they were right to do in this weather," O'Leary said.

"They thought we couldn't throw the ball, and they were fairly right. We had to throw it, because we couldn't run. If it had been a dry field, we would have thrown a lot more because of their run defense."

FOLLOWING the Patriots' quick strike, North got the ball at Franklin's 35- and 40-yard lines, but couldn't go anywhere until recovering its first fumble at the 22.

On first down, Simon zinged the ball to Chad Henry, who went airborne to catch it, but it appeared he was going to be upended. He came down on his feet, however, and ran through a tackle to the end zone. Then he tied the score with his first of two PAT kicks.

Franklin fumbled again on its next possession, and it took the Raiders eight plays to score from the 32. As they did in the John Glenn game two weeks ago, they used a trick play to keep the drive going.

On fourth down at the 25, the Raiders lined up for a 42-yard field goal attempt by Henry. Instead, the holder, Ryan Meador dashed off 6 yards for a key first down.

"The field was so wet we wanted to go for it," O'Leary said. "We lined up in regular formation, because they'd shut us down."

HE INSTRUCTED his players to pass if the Patriots tried to block the kick or "turn it up for the first down" if the two receivers were covered. On first down at the 5, Simon lofted a high

pass to Todd Gesund in the corner of the end zone for the winning TD.

North's defense also played a big role, not allowing a first down and holding the Patriots to minus-9 yards after the first quarter. By contrast, the Raiders, who didn't commit a turnover despite the lousy conditions, managed seven first downs and 68 yards rushing.

"I thought the kids did a great job of hanging onto the ball on offense, and the defense turned the ball over to us four times in great field position," O'Leary said.

"The most frustrating thing was we gave it to them," Vigna said. "Not to take anything away from them, but (the weather) sure hurt us a great deal with all those dumb fumbles."

"I thought the defense played super. We played the whole ballgame in our end of the field and only gave up 14 points."

"I think the offense would have done a better job on a dry field," he added, "but it was wet and slippery for them, too, and they didn't make those mistakes."

AFTER recovering its fourth fumble at the Franklin 19, the Raiders drove to the 3 but Henry's 21-yard field goal attempt was no good. The Patriots got the ball three more times, but had to punt each time after three downs.

North kept alive its hopes of making the Class A playoffs. Several teams ahead of the Raiders will have to lose, but they can help themselves Saturday when they play host to Clarkston, 6-2.

"Even if we go 8-1 and don't make it, it will still have been a great year," O'Leary said.

By Bill Parker
staff writer

The Farmington Falcons couldn't get the fire started Saturday afternoon in the cold and rainy conditions and Plymouth Canton spoiled the Falcons' final home game with a 6-2 triumph.

"It's cold, it's wet but it's a win," said Canton coach Bob Koenke.

"The conditions were really bad but it's nice to get the win. Today it was our turn to win a close one."

For Farmington, which slipped to 1-7 on the season, the loss was hard to swallow. The Falcons came up with just three first downs in the game and were limited to 75 yards total offense.

"We worked hard all week and had a good game plan and couldn't use it," said Farmington coach Dave Catherman. "Our passing game and our outside running are very important parts of our offense and we couldn't use either one."

The problems began early for the Falcons. On the first play from scrimmage they turned the ball over on a fumble at their own 37 yard line. But the defense held, stopping the Chiefs on fourth and six at the 22.

That was as close as either team came to the end zone as the first quarter ended in a scoreless tie.

CANTON DREW first blood mid-

way through the second quarter. Starting with the ball at their own 15 the Chiefs marched 85 yards on seven plays and scored on a 2-yard run by senior halfback Roger Tracy. The drive was sparked by a 74-yard run by Joel Riggs on third and one at the Farmington 24. In fact, Riggs would have reached pay dirt had it not been for Farmington's Bill Lindbert, who ran Riggs down and forced him out of bounds at the two.

The extra point was blocked at the line by Mike Kelley. A Farmington penalty, however, gave The Chiefs another shot at the conversion but the two-point attempt was stopped at the line.

After Farmington was forced to punt on its next possession the Chiefs took control at their own 15. They marched to the Falcons' 30 yard line before Lindbert again came up with a big play, intercepting a Farmington pass at the Falcon 20.

With time running out the Falcons threw up a Hall Mary pass that was intercepted by Shawn Koteles and returned to midfield as the first half came to an end.

THE FALCONS were forced to punt on the opening possession of the second half. But the kick took a Falcon roll and wound up on the Chief's nine yard line. Four plays later

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Farmington girls division winners

It's official now. The Farmington High Falcons are the Lakes Division champions in girls cross country.

Farmington finished 5-1 in the division and capped an undefeated dual-meet season Thursday with an 18-42 victory over crosstown rival North Farmington at Oakland Community College.

"We feel extremely lucky to win the division title," said Falcon coach John Barrett, whose team defeated three opponents by close scores along the way. "We had a lot of competition this year, so we're very happy to gain that. We're looking forward to the conference meet, and that's going to be an even greater challenge."

Besides the other Lakes members, the Falcons will have to contend with an excellent Plymouth Canton squad Tuesday in the Western Lakes Activities Association meet.

BONNIE Stecker paced Farmington with a first-place time of 21:03 Thursday. It was her best effort of the season. The Falcons took the top three spots, Amy Trunk finishing second in 21:06 and Jennifer Kiel third in 21:25.

The Raiders captured two of the next three places as No. 4 Lisa Rives and No. 6 Donna Chuba finished around Farmington's fifth-place Margaret Martin. Rives was clocked at 21:41, Martin 22:08 and Chuba 22:19.

The Falcons locked up the victory when they got back-to-back finishes from Judy McKeever (22:30) and Cheryl Casaroli (22:37) in the Nos. 7-8 places. In her first varsity run, Julie Lawton helped out as a blocker, coming in 10th at 23:17.

North's Tracy Mitchell was ninth (22:38), Sonia Singh 11th (23:34) and Amy Gallus 14th (25:30).

With league and regional meets coming up this week, Barrett is hopeful the Falcons can trim their times and approach their 1986 performances. Stecker ran 19:35 in last year's regional, Kiel 19:46 and Trunk 20:16. Barrett said this would be a good time for them to match those times.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Bonnie Stecker had her best time of the season Thursday to pace Farmington's division-title clinching cross country win. Teammate Amy Trunk (background) was second.

Ladywood gets hot, clips Mercy in 4th

When it needed it most, Livonia Ladywood found its scoring touch to hand Farmington Hills Mercy a 46-39 Catholic League girls basketball defeat Friday at Schoolcraft College.

The win moved the Blazers a game ahead of Mercy in the Central Division standings. Ladywood is 6-2 in the division; Mercy dipped to 5-3. Birmingham Marian is in front at 8-0, with a game at home against Ladywood Tuesday.

"We needed a game like this," said Blazer coach Ed Kavanaugh, whose team is 11-3 overall. "It was a close game all the way. We could have easily lost it, but we came through when we had to."

LADYWOOD HAD to do it in the final quarter. The Blazers trailed 25-21 entering the period after scoring just seven, nine and seven points in each of the first three quarters, respectively. They then doubled their output with a 23-point burst in the final eight minutes.

Ann Marie Thomas did most of the damage with nine fourth-quarter

girls basketball

points; she finished with 20. Yvonne Barnett got 14 for the game, edging coming in the last quarter.

Asked if his team did anything different in turning its offense around in that last quarter, Kavanaugh said, "We scored. We really didn't do anything different. It was a typical, well-played game for both teams."

One major difference in the last quarter for Ladywood was free throw shooting. The Blazers were three-of-10 from the stripe over the first three periods; they were nine-of-12 in the last.

Mercy, now 8-6 overall, was 17-of-22 for the game from the line. Leading the Marlins in scoring were Adrienne Clark and Patty Chapp, each with 14 points.