

Sports

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(F11D)

Hawks get their wish: rematch with Vikings

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

The shoe will be on the other foot Saturday when Farmington Hills Harrison and Marysville renew their ever-increasing football rivalry.

Two of the state's perennial Class B powers collide for a second straight year in the semifinal round at 1:30 p.m. in Flint's Atwood Stadium. A trip to the Pontiac Silverdome and a berth in the state championship game Saturday, Nov. 25, will be on the line.

Unlike last year, it is the Hawks who are especially eager for the rematch and a chance to avenge a defeat. The Vikings knocked off Harrison 22-6 and went on to win the state title the following week.

Marysville had waited five years to get the Hawks on the same field after losing to Harrison in the 1981 state tournament, 23-13.

Both teams take 10-1 records into the game, and the Hawks had to get past Allen Park and Monroe St. Mary-Catholic Central before reaching this desired point in the playoffs.

"THIS IS the game we've been hoping we could get for a year," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "This is the game we wanted."

But the revenge factor is not the prime motivation, he added. Rather it is the opportunity for the Hawks to redeem themselves after a lackluster showing against the Vikings.

"It's not so much the fact they beat us, but the fact we played poorly and didn't perform well," Herrington said. "We wanted to come back and show them we can play football."

Whenever the Vikings and Harrison have played, the winner has always gone on to win the state title. The Hawks did so in 1981 and captured the Class A trophy the following year.

football

HARRISON HAWKS	
38	Southfield 8
49	Farmington 16
41	Livonia Franklin 0
31	Warren Easton 0
35	Plymouth Canton 0
36	Livonia Churchill 0
14	Northville 14
8	Westland John Glenn 0
62	West Bloomfield 0
29	Allen Park 6
35	Monroe St. Mary-CC 6
376	10-1 56
MARYSVILLE VIKINGS	
7	Port Huron Northern 14
24	Madison Mt. Bishop Foley 7
50	Rochester 0
53	Croswell-Leading 0
41	St. Clair 0
42	Algonquin 0
30	Milwaukee City 0
17	Jackson Lumen Christi 0
18	Port Huron 0
PLAYOFFS	
26	Auburn Hills Avondale 14
35	Delton Delton 14
325	10-1 66

"The winner this year has a great chance to do the same," Marysville coach Walt Braun said. "I told the kids last year 'If we can win this game, we can win the state championship.'"

"I THINK the winner of this game will win the state championship," he added, with certainty in his voice.

The winner plays either Grand Rapids Catholic Central or Frankfort at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, for all the marbles, but Harrison is concentrating on this week's game.

Nothing went right for the Hawks last year. The team bus got lost on the way, there were uncharacteristic turnovers and penalties and Marysville did a number running the ball.

The Vikings outgained Harrison 236-19 on the ground.

The Hawks have prided themselves on their rushing defense this fall, allowing 11 opponents just 529 yards rushing. Herrington said they are better at defending the run this year, and Braun, naturally, agrees with him.

"I think they've got a better defense this year," he said. "I think this is one of their top defensive teams."

MARYSVILLE'S top offensive threat is senior halfback Steve Foster, who did all of the damage last year when he scored every point on three touchdowns, a field goal and an extra point. He also rushed 20 times for 153 yards.

"They broke the second play of the game (for a score)," Herrington said. "We had Foster trapped, he got loose and that set the tone for the whole night."

The Vikings don't throw a lot, but they've been effective when they have. That, plus the fact their decision to throw is an integral part of their offense and not done out of desperation, concerns Herrington.

Junior quarterback Shawn Winston, who replaced All-Stater Randy Socha, was 5-of-6 for 96 yards and two TDs in the 35-14 win over Delton last week. He has completed 60 percent of his passes, thrown 12 for scores and totaled nearly 700 yards through the air.

"They run a lot of bootleg and play-action passes," Herrington said. "If anybody stops their run, that's what they go to, and they've been highly successful with the pass."

THE VIKINGS will have to contend with a Harrison offense that can do either just as well. It was Aaron Yavertski's running that highlighted the win over Allen Park.

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Chad Burgess' quick response prevented this play from being a SMCC pass completion in last week's playoff game, jarring the ball loose

from the grasp of Jeff Tedora. Burgess and the Hawks hope to avenge last year's loss to Marysville this Saturday.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Raiders eye league title

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Lavonia Stevenson is the only school to have won the Western Lakes Activities Association girls swimming championship, but that record of perfection could be severely challenged this year.

North Farmington won the WLAA Relays early in the season, though by a narrow, two-point margin over the Spartans, and then won the Lakes Division dual-meet crown.

Furthermore, Lavonia Churchill has come on strong this year, capturing the Western Division title with a 5-0 record, and runner-up Plymouth Canton also has a strong team and is capable of winning the championship.

The league swimming finals will be contested at 7 p.m. Friday in the Plymouth Salem pool. The preliminaries took place Wednesday, and the diving results will be determined at 4 p.m. today, also at Salem.

Stevenson coach Greg Phil said he hates to think his team can't win it again, but acknowledges the Raiders to be the favorite.

"North Farmington has got a great team this year," he said. "I'm hoping for second to be honest."

"We could win it if we swim great and North Farmington doesn't, but I don't see that happening. It would be so uncharacteristic of them not to swim well at the end of the year."

"We'll have to swim awful fast to (finish second), because Churchill has a real good team, too," he added. "I tell you there's not a better league around. Anything can happen, but (the Raiders) are favored going in."

Stevenson can't be counted out just yet, however. The same was being said a year ago, that the Raiders were ready to dethrone the Spartans. But they produced an inspired effort in the league meet and won going away.

STEVENSON accumulated 266 points to North's 180. Westland John Glenn was third, and Canton is expected to do no worse than its fourth-place finish of a year ago. Coach Lawrence Hein's Churchill team was third in the WLAA Relays and are almost guaranteed to improve upon last year's performance when they were

swimming

seventh with 92 points.

Shella Taormina, who won the individual medley and butterfly with record-setting times for Stevenson, has graduated, but Michele McKenzie, who was on the winning freestyle relay team with Taormina, is back.

Stevenson's hopes depend a lot on what McKenzie does since she is Observerland's top-ranked swimmer in four events. She owns the best time in all four freestyle events: the 200 (1:57.35), 50 (25.5), 100 (54.6) and 500 (5:07.6).

Churchill's Audra Martin is the defending champ in the 100 freestyle after winning that with a 55.53 time, but she is not listed among the top 10 in that event this year.

But she has been heard from and will be a factor in other contests if not the 100 freestyle. She has the area's best times in the individual medley (2:11.3), butterfly (58.93) and backstroke (1:03.7). She also is among the best in the 200, 50 and 500 freestyles and the breaststroke.

BUT NORTH'S Cindy Cramer is the premier swimmer in the latter. She is the defending champ, having won the 100 in 1:09.10 last year, and she has the best time this season, cutting nearly a second off her winning time of a year ago at 1:08.4.

Other swimmers who will have an impact on the 1987 meet include John Glenn's Julie Jensen and Jenny DeBrincat, Canton's Nicole Drake and Cassie Cummins, North's Laurie Oswald, Kerry Dean, Amy Manselley, Marysville's Mary Wagner and Liv's Worthen, Harrison's Elizabeth Tucker, Farmington's Lauren Weary, Stevenson's Lisa Compos, Churchill's Cathy Ankenbrandt and Angie Neville and Salem's Erin Olson.

Farmington's Tina Slicker is No. 4 among area divers in the Observerland listing, but has the highest previous score of any WLAA competitor.

Marlins take aim at 24th straight

Farmington Hills Mercy will attempt to win an unprecedented and astounding 24th consecutive Catholic League swimming championship Sunday.

Putting this amazing record in perspective, the first title was won before any of the current team members were born.

The Marlins swept through the league dual-meet schedule, defeating Shrine, Bishop Foley, Star of the Sea, Regina and Marian.

Mercy also won the Brighton Relays, defeated Rochester, Rochester Adams, Ann Arbor Huron and Plymouth Canton and tied Dearborn during a 9-0-1 season.

The Marlins boast the top Observerland time in the 200-yard medley relay and are second in the 400 freestyle relay.

Erica Campbell is the area's top diver and rates as the favorite to win league diving honors. Mercy has another excellent diver in Mar-

le Olson, and the Marlins are strong in the backstroke with Roberta Orr and Katie Westhoff ranked Nos. 2 and 3 in Observerland. Orr is a four-year state qualifier and all-area selection.

Others who could cop league titles include Becky Wiquist (200, 50 and 100 freestyles), Karen Neyer (100 freestyle), Lix DeMatteis (butterfly), Cindy Grubb (500 freestyle), Orr also excels in the individual medley and breaststroke.

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