

Shamrocks face weakened Ford

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Detroit Henry Ford's Joe Hoskins is one of the state's most successful football coaches, but he's envious of his Redford Catholic Central counterpart, Tom Mach.

Ford (7-3) and CC (9-0) are scheduled to meet in a first-round Class A playoff game at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Washtenaw Stadium in Pontiac. Ford might be able to dress only 13 players because 23 players already have been ruled ineligible to play by the Detroit Public School League.

Forty-seven players dot CC's roster and Mach promises all will show up. That figure alone substantiates Hoskins' jealousy.

"I'm excited about playing CC and Coach Mach," Hoskins said. "I wish I was working with such a class organization."

Said Mach: "We're approaching it like any other game. Everyone is going to be there for us. It's hard to say what's going to happen. They can say it's a coin toss and end up playing with 35. We're trying to keep away from the extra-curricular stuff and play football."

Actually, the CC-Ford matchup might never come about. Ron Woodfork, an all-state candidate at quarterback, is one of the 13 players who remains eligible, but Hoskins is worried about playing CC for safety reasons.

THIRTEEN PLAYERS would mean Hoskins has only two substitutes in case of injury. Last Saturday, the outmanned Trojans lost to Detroit Martin Luther King in the PSI championship game.

"We don't have enough players," Hoskins said. "But my boys want to play and I want to coach. I'm not a quitter. It's adversity I have to go through. I can't walk away from it."

Hoskins hasn't walked away before from adversity. He lost his coaching job last summer in a dispute with Ford's administration, but filed a grievance through the teacher's union and was reinstated this fall.

He said a reorganization of schools and reprogramming of classes in the public school system this year are partly to blame for the players being ruled ineligible.

Hoskins also blamed Ford principal Elijah Porter and athletic director Dorothy Clure for not acting in time to keep his players eligible.

"This is administrative sabotage against me," Hoskins said. "They fired me a year ago and they don't want us to have a successful football program. Clure should have returned long ago. She just gets in the way of things."

football

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Ford football coach

NEITHER CLORE nor Porter could be reached for comment at Ford.

Of course, there's still a game to play Saturday, and if Ford shows up, CC will be a heavy favorite. The No. 1-ranked Shamrocks won the Catholic League From Bowl title Saturday at the Pontiac Silverdome, beating the University of Detroit Jesuit High 28-7.

CC, which lost to Ann Arbor Pioneer in the Class A final last year, has a more balanced offensive attack this fall with the development of quarterback Scott Hauscher. The senior has rushed for 141 yards and also has become a threat to throw the ball, passing for 895 yards.

"He's the best quarterback we've had in quite awhile in terms of statistics," Mach said. "He can hurt you in a number of ways. His passing has given us a different dimension this year."

Tailback Dave Owens leads the Shamrocks' rushing attack with 611 yards in 164 carries. Fullback Lee Krueger has scored 12 touchdowns and rushed for 400 yards on 118 attempts.

KRUEGER HAS BEEN even more effective on defense as a nose guard.

The Class A wrestling champion at 188 pounds last winter, Krueger our linebacker to make tackles, enabling his teammates to get more involved. Senior linebacker Kevin Jankowski leads CC defenders with 90 tackles.

"Teams double and triple-team Lee because they know he's the No. 1 guy," Mach said. "That frees up our linebackers to make tackles. I think winning the wrestling title last year has given him more confidence."

Football playoffs new to Clawson

THE HAWKS, WHO begin their quest for a third state title and fifth Silverdome appearance, rate as a heavy favorite over Clawson, which lost its first and last games to Madison Heights teams Bishop Foley and Lamphere.

While some teams have difficulty being emotionally ready every week, Herrington has never had to worry about his 1988 ballclub's preparedness. A poor performance against Clawson is unlikely.

"This team is unique," he said. "They play as hard as they can every game, so it doesn't matter who we play."

"I worried about it at the beginning of the season, but I really don't anymore."

The Trojans, on the other hand, are the underdog in terms of school size, at least. Clawson has 650 students as opposed to the 900-plus at Harrison.

"I think we're the smallest 'B' school in the county," Moore said. "That's a feather in our cap, to make the playoffs in an A-B league."

IF THERE IS common ground between the teams, it's the fact both depend heavily on their skill players.

Senior Dave Schmalz, quarterback, leads the Trojans, and he throws to split end Don Peidle, the leading receiver with 17 catches for 364 yards and three TDs, and flanker Matt Highland (10-18-1). Peidle has caught a school-record 38 passes in his two-year varsity career.

"Schmalz worked hard in the offseason to develop his skills as a quarterback," Moore said. "He's a

sleeper for us, because everybody looks to some of these other guys."

Clawson, however, is probably a running team first and foremost. Joe Mitchell (713 yards, seven TDs) and Rich Carrier (450 yards, six TDs) share the tailback position, and the Trojans use fullback Steve Haney a lot, also.

If passing becomes the deciding factor, Harrison has the advantage with quarterback Mill Coleman and the impressive stats he has compiled. The 5-foot-9 junior completed 71 of 118 passes for 1,406 yards and 20 touchdowns during the regular season. He threw only three interceptions.

Bryan Wauldron caught 33 of those, for 782 yards and 10 TDs, and Chad Burgess was on the receiving end of 19, which netted 364 yards and five TDs.

"If we get a good day, we'd like to throw the ball," said Herrington, adding he's sure Clawson is preparing for that. "I don't know how much they've seen of us, but I know they've heard of Mill and will be working on pass defense."

"We feel the running game has really come on the last few weeks, and we think we can have a balanced offense," he added.

Clawson has a veteran secondary, but the Trojans haven't faced a quarterback as good as Coleman, said Moore, adding nobody else has either.

"Harrison does so many things well," he said. "I think it's important to stop their running game. We'll try to do that first and see what happens in the passing game."

Trojans coming off loss

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Clawson managed to qualify for the Class B playoffs despite losing its final game of the regular season 35-0 to Madison Heights Lamphere, another contender.

Both teams finished with 7-2 records, but the Trojans, who visit Farmington Harrison for a Region IV first-round game at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, got the nod. The difference was Clawson's victories over fellow Macomb-Oakland members, Warren Lincoln and Warren Mott, both Class A schools. Lamphere, which lost to Harrison in the 1978 Class A playoffs, was beaten by both of those teams.

"Lamphere did everything right, and we did everything wrong," said Clawson coach Dick Moore of the season finale. "We did everything to help them — jumping offside, fouling and so on. We had a complete pass for a first down. We had six turnovers, too. It was one thing after another."

It looked as if Harrison would play Monroe Jefferson a week earlier, but coach John Herrington and Company were on top of the situation and expected to be paired against the Trojans.

"Ken Hilson figures out all the points, and he said no way will Lamphere make it," Herrington said. "Hilson knows more about the points than the state and the newspapers, so he keeps us informed."

"In fact, he called up (Westland) John Glenn and told them where they stood."

The Rockets, runners-up to Harrison in

the Western Lakes Activities Association, play Lincoln Park in the Class A playoffs at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Glen.

PLAYOFF VETERAN: The Harrison name is familiar to observers of the high school football playoffs. Only Class D Crystal Falls Forest Park has been in the playoffs more years (12) than the Hawks (8).

Harrison, 9-0, defeated Allen Park, Monroe St. Mary-Catholic Central and Marysville before losing to Grand Rapids Catholic Central in the 1987 state final.

The Hawks now turn their attention to pursuing that which eluded them last year.

"We really didn't discuss it with the players, but I'm sure it's on their minds," Herrington said Monday morning. "We will not have talked about the playoffs until today."

"We wanted the undefeated season. With all the great teams we've had, only one have gone undefeated, so it's a real honor."

But Herrington noted the Hawks were eliminated in the '86 semifinals and the '87 final. "So maybe this is our year," he said.

SIZING THINGS UP: Clawson's only 200-pounders are its offensive tackles. The Trojans aren't a big team, and center Jay Huittwalle (6-0, 195) anchors a young line.

"They don't match up too well," Moore said. "This is the smallest team we've had in years."



Chad Burgess, leaping to catch a pass against Canton during the regular season, helps make Harrison a potent passing team.

The Trojans are the smallest team Harrison will have played, and Herrington rates their team speed as their biggest asset.

DEFENSIVE REPORT: Middle linebacker Sesa Bjelica (5-11, 176) is the leader on Clawson's defense. He made a school-record 111 tackles this year. Ends Doug Mason and Joe Guzyski are key players in the 4-3 defense, also.

"They've been real important for us in the way we play our defense," Moore said. "We have to get them in there to make things happen."

The Hawks have a 3-to-1 turnover ratio in their favor. Harrison has 23 team interceptions and 13 fumble recoveries. Bryan Wauldron has made seven interceptions and Chad Burgess four.

No team has rushed for 100 yards against Harrison, which has allowed 495 on the ground and 543 passing all season.

Linebacker Carl Schumacher has 56 tackles, linebacker Scott Nichols 42, defensive back Rob MacDonald and Jason Lichtman 35 apiece and tackle Jeff Skinner 31. MacDonald and Lichtman also have two interceptions.

HAWK OFFENSE: Junior Joe George is the team's leading rusher with 303 yards on 81 carries. But the Hawks have been so efficient at passing and converting turnovers into short-drive TDs the running backs haven't had many opportunities to pile up yards.

Quarterback Mill Coleman is next with 256 yards and 34 carries, and junior Matt Conley carried 46 times for 195 yards in six games. George has rushed for six touchdowns, Conley five and Coleman four.

Wauldron is the leading receiver with 74 points, and Steve Hill has kicked a school-record 45 extra points and six field goals. He also scored a TD and has 69 points.

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