

## Sports

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## Final score familiar as Hawks soar

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

The start of the Class B football playoffs was merely a continuation of the nine-game regular season for Farmington Harrison.

As the final score in Saturday's 32-0 defeat of Clawson indicates, the Hawks never missed a beat in the transition. Harrison posted its sixth shutout in 10 games and was every bit the dominant team it has been all year.

The competition is expected to be much tougher this week, however, when the Hawks, unbeaten and ranked No. 1 in the state, face River View, also 10-0, in the regional final at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in Madison Heights.

But even under the worst playing conditions of the season, the Hawks managed to do what they have done so well all along — throw the football.

Despite having to deal with rain and mud that turned the Harrison gridiron into a soupy slog, quarterback Mill Coleman passed for 167 yards and two touchdowns, hitting on seven of 11 passes.

**HARRISON'S STRATEGY** was to throw the ball early before the field got too messy and the ball too heavy. The Hawks were successful, striking for a quick, 12-0 lead that locked the Trojans into a game-long disadvantage.

"It's good to know we can go out in such terrible conditions and still do so well," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "We were concerned because a field like that can be an equalizer, and we didn't want the game to be equalized."

The Hawks had planned all week to throw on their first offensive play, then reconsidered it before deciding to stay with the original plan.

It was the right call as Coleman hit Chad Burgess deep for a 44-yard touchdown on the game's opening play and a 6-0 lead.

"I think we surprised them, not going into a huddle and coming out

## football

throwing," Burgess said. "I guess (the defender) had trouble backing up in the mud, and I just had to go straight forward."

The Hawks had the ball again soon after, and Coleman, again on first down, passed 32 yards to Bryan Wauldron, who kept one foot in bounds at the Clawson 7-yard line. That set up Coleman's 6-yard run for the TD two plays later.

"MILL HAS SUCH big hands I know he could throw it," said Herrington, adding he wasn't worried about that, "although he said late in the game he just couldn't get a grip on it."

Coleman had most of his passing yardage in the first half when he was 5-of-7 for 145 yards. He threw 17 yards to Wauldron during a drive that gave Harrison an 18-0 halftime lead, and he later completed a 39-yarder to Jason Lichtman on a drive ended by a fumble.

"I knew we'd be able to throw the ball in the rain as long as they kept the ball dry," Coleman said. "It wasn't so much the rain as it was the mud all over my hands."

"We wanted to get as much passing in as we could before the weather became a factor."

Clawson coach Dick Moore, whose team finishes with a 7-3 record, wasn't surprised that Harrison came out throwing on such a lousy day.

"They pass well and run well," he said. "We were prepared for both, but we didn't cover well."

**"THEY'RE AN excellent defensive club and very explosive. They can score from just about anywhere and then settle down and run the ball hard at you."**

While the Hawks had a decent day rushing — Joe George's 22 yards was the best by any one back, and the team managed 93 total — the

Harrison defense strangled Clawson's offense.

The Trojans were held to minus-21 yards rushing and completed one of five passes for 20 yards. Clawson had just two first downs, including one by penalty after the Hawks roughed the punter, and never crossed midfield.

"Defense is where they're so dominant," Moore said. "We couldn't find any weakness."

Herrington was worried the mud would hinder Harrison's defensive asset, its quickness. But those fears proved to be unfounded as the Hawks dropped opposing ballcarriers for losses on 14 of 31 rushing plays.

It was good to get ahead, and we could see they weren't going to move the ball on coach (Bob) Sutter's defense," Herrington said.

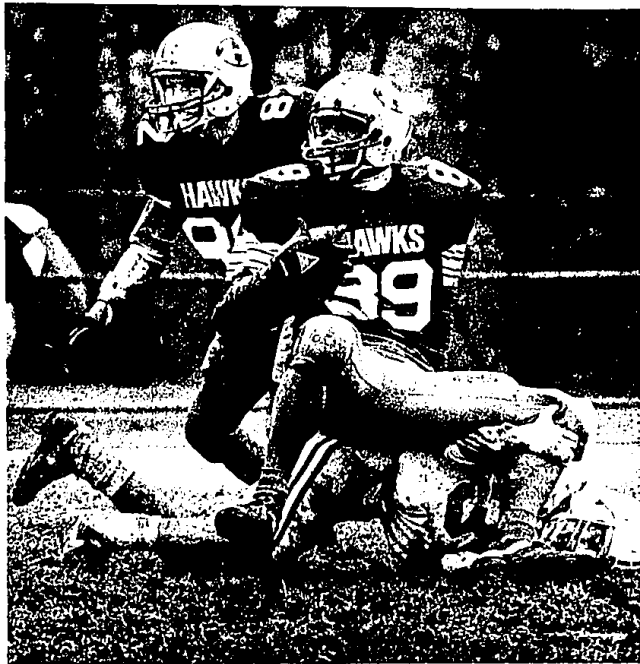
**"PERSONALLY, I think I slowed me down a bit,"** said noseguard Jason Buchanan of the mud, adding even he was surprised by his unit's domination.

"They were a good ballclub," he added. "I think they had a little breakdown after we scored on the first play."

George got Harrison's third TD on a 5-yard run, and field position set up two second-half scores.

Clawson punter Rich Carrier had to run from his own 11 following a low snap, and Harrison's Rob MacDonald dropped him at the 4. Matt Conley carried twice and scored on the second attempt from 1 yard out.

The Hawks pinned Clawson in its end again and got the ball back at the 29. Tim Horton made it 31-0 with Coleman's second TD pass, a 9-yarder. Steve Hill then upped his school-record PAT total to 47 with his second of the game.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Chad Burgess goes down after receiving a punt and being hit by a Clawson tackler, Jason Lichtman (82) is ready to protect his team-

mate. Burgess caught a 44-yard pass for the game's first touchdown.

## John Glenn rally dooms 'Splitters

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

Lincoln Park's six points in the first half might as well have been gift wrapped with a bow on top.

Westland John Glenn was certainly thankful the Railspitters didn't score any more. The Rockets made a litany of mistakes Saturday in the first two quarters, but pulled themselves together in the second half to beat the visiting Railspitters, 13-6, in a Class A prerregional football game.

The Rockets (9-1) will play Redford Catholic Central (10-0) Saturday at home in a Class A Region 1 game.

In the first half, a regional game for John Glenn appeared remote. The Rockets couldn't move the ball when they had it. They couldn't stop the Railspitters when they had it, either.

Jeff Elkins made amends with three minutes left in the third quarter. The senior wide receiver pulled in a pass at midfield and cut upfield for a John Glenn touchdown. The comeback had commenced.

When quarterback Eric Stover scored on a 1-yard run with 9:25 left in the game, Chuck Gordon's prophecy had come true.

**"I TOLD THEM** at the half we had a great chance to win the game because nothing went right in the first half and we were only down six zip," said the John Glenn coach.

Please turn to Page 2

## CC blanks outmanned Ford

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

Maybe Detroit Henry Ford should have stayed home.

The Trojans couldn't have had much fun Saturday in the rain and mud at Pontiac's Wisner Stadium, losing 28-0 to Redford Catholic Central in the opening round of the Class A playoffs. The win sends No. 1-ranked CC (10-0) into the quarterfinal round Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at Westland John Glenn (9-1).

"Give CC credit, they deserve to be No. 1," Ford coach Joe Hoskins said. "I have nothing but respect for them. They beat our butts."

Ford considered forfeiting the game when 16 of its 35 players were ruled ineligible earlier last week by the Detroit Public School League because of academic woes. No doubt Saturday's weather didn't encourage Hoskins or the Trojans. There was more mud on the field than grass.

**CC'S DEFENSE** forced eight fumbles and held Ford to 56 yards in total offense, zero through the air. All-PSL quarterback Ron Woolfork had his only pass intercepted by CC linebacker Kevin Jankowski, and he fumbled several snaps from a sophomore center playing his first game.

"Every time we called a pass play today we fumbled away the ball," Hoskins said. CC took advantage of good field position early, scoring three of the first four times it had the ball. The Shamrocks led 21-0 at halftime, scoring on runs of 4

and 3 yards by fullback Lee Krueger and on a 28-yard pass from quarterback Scott Hauncher to Sean O'Keefe.

CC completed the scoring in the third quarter, when tight end Lou Yeager caught a 3-yard pass while lying on his back in the end zone.

**KRUEGER DIDN'T** mind the muddy conditions, leading all rushers with 63 yards on 15 carries. The senior fullback/nose guard still had mud on his neck after taking a shower.

"We're used to this because our practice field (at CC) is so bad," Krueger said. "We didn't bother getting angles on hits. We just went straight on at people or we'd lose our footing."

Field position was critical, CC coach Tom Mach said.

"We got field position early, which is what we hoped for," he said. "We had different things planned offensively today that we couldn't do because of the conditions. We tried to run where the field was best and where we could get the best traction and the best blocking."

"Considering the field conditions, both teams played well. Ford showed great courage and should be complimented."

**CC'S FIRST 14** points were set up by its defense, which forced Ford to punt after three plays on the first series of the game. The Shamrocks got the ball at the Trojan 24, and seven plays later Krueger scored from 3 yards out.

Woolfork fumbled the next play from scrimmage

and Ford defensive tackle Ryan Bell recovered for CC at the Trojans' 28-yard line.

Hauncher, who completed five of the six passes he threw for 77 yards, surprised the Ford secondary with a toss to O'Keefe streaking (as best he could) down the sideline for the score with 4:28 left in the first quarter. Pete Elezovic, who made all four placements, kicked the extra point to give CC a 14-0 lead.

The Shamrocks' first score was set up by another poor snap combined with a heavy CC rush, resulting in a punt of minus-5 yards that was downed at the Ford 10-yard line. Krueger scored from the 4 with 11:21 left and Elezovic's kick made it 21-0.

**MACH PULLED** Hauncher in the fourth quarter. The Shamrock coach was impressed by what he had seen.

"(Hauncher) laid the first one up there nice," Mach said. "He's improved quite a bit this year. He's been laying the ball on the money more and our receivers have been catching the ball."

CC gained 260 yards in total offense, with 163 coming on the ground. Reserve sophomore tailback Brian Chaney was the second-leading rusher behind Krueger with 52 yards on 11 carries. Dave Owens had 26 yards on six carries. The Shamrocks picked up 14 first downs and limited the Trojans to three.

Ezanjolo Draper led Ford with 42 yards rushing. Ford penetrated beyond CC's 50-yard line three times in the game but a turnover ended all three potential drives.

## North advances in WLAA

An inspired comeback Thursday by Livonia Franklin fell short in a Western Lakes girls basketball playoff opener at North Farmington, won by the Raiders 49-45 in overtime.

The Patriots trailed by 48-30-22, after three quarters, but 10 Dawn Warner points helped them outscore North 20-12 in the final period and force overtime tied at 42.

Franklin wasn't able to maintain its momentum, however, mainly because Leslie Szaflarski and Jenny Rettig fouled out in the fourth quarter and Warner was fouled with four personal fouls.

The best chance the Patriots had to win escaped them when OT staged a rally of its own to put the game into OT. With a minute left, the Raiders trailed by four but a 12-footer by Eve Clear and a jumper by Kim Gurecki tied it.

North went on to score the first seven points of the extra session before Warner hit a three-pointer in the final seconds for Franklin.

**"I'VE GOT** to give Franklin a lot of credit," said North coach Greg Capling. "They play great defense. They're a tough team. They pressured us and made us play a fast-paced game, and we didn't shoot well tonight. I know we didn't shoot our free throws well."

Free throw shooting was a touchy topic for both coaches. Capling was upset that his team hit barely more than 50 percent from the line, but Franklin coach Dan Freeman was angry at North's ad-

## basketball

vantage in attempts. The Raiders were 22-of-43; Franklin shot just 21 free throws, making 12.

"We outscored them by six points from the field and lost," said Freeman. "I felt we outplayed them, but the referees took us right out of the game. I hate to cry about referees, but they took us out of it."

"This is one of the worst hostings I've ever had. And I don't mean to let anything away from North — they're a fine team."

**CAPLING KNEW** fouls made the difference. His team made just two first-half baskets, but led 15-13 at the intermission thanks to 11 free throws.

And when Szaflarski and Rettig fouled out, the Raiders' defensive concerns melted.

"With those two out, we could concentrate on Warner, which we did," said Capling.

Clear and Gurecki provided the points for North, scoring 18 and 17 respectively. Franklin got 18 from Warner, 10 from Julie Stiesiak and eight from Cheryl Hinz.

Both teams are 11-6. North advances to Tuesday's WLAA semifinals, playing at West Lake

Western, a 51-47 upset winner over Plymouth Salem. Franklin plays at Salem Tuesday.

**FARMINGTON 48, HARRISON 34:** Farmington Harrison moved a step closer to a winless campaign Tuesday at Farmington. The Hawks are 0-17 and Farmington is 5-12.

A 7-0 first quarter put the Falcons ahead to stay. They increased their lead to 12 at the half (25-14) and led by 17 after three quarters (36-19).

"We wanted to get the lead and maintain it," said Farmington coach Diana Fair. "We pressed full-court and executed it, but (Darcy) Pinal is real hard to stop."

Pinal finished with 23 of Harrison's 34 points. Marisa Ferrari topped the Falcons with 14 points. Thibaut Hatcher had 10 and Melissa Tisdale contributed seven points, six steals and four blocked shots.

Livonia Stevenson plays at Harrison Tuesday. Farmington travels to Livonia Churchill.

**WAYNE 57, FORDSON 46:** Wayne Memorial got the revenge it sought Thursday, beating host Dearborn Fordson in a Wolverine A Conference game.

The Tractors had beaten Wayne at Wayne earlier this season.

Both teams are now 10-3 in the Wolverine A. The Zebras are 15-2 overall; Fordson is 14-4.

Please turn to Page 3

## Defending champ bounced by WLW

There will be a new girls basketball champion in the Western Lakes Activities Association this year.

After three consecutive years at the top, Plymouth's Salem reign has come to an end.

The WLAA was guaranteed a different winner Thursday when Walled Lake Western topped the defending champion 51-47 in a stunning upset, at Salem.

The first-round playoff victory sends the Warriors, who had a 5-5 record in the Western Division, against North Farmington in a semifinal game Tuesday at Western.

The Rocks, champions of the Lakes Division, have dropped two in a row and are 14-4 overall. Salem, which had a 12-game winning streak snapped Tuesday by Flint Powers, will play at Livonia Franklin in the consolation round Tuesday.

"Our problem was that we started out slowly," said Salem coach Fred Thomann, who saw his team trailing 14-8 after one quarter and 29-22 at halftime.

The Rocks outscored Western by four in the third period, but the big quarter that would turn the game around eluded Salem. The Warriors held on in the fourth, making six of eight free throws — they were 13-of-17 for the game — to maintain a 14-13 edge in the final.

"We made a number of runs at them, but we couldn't get the lead," Thomann said. "They're playing real well down the stretch like they did last year."

He added the Warriors have a legitimate Division 1 player in 6-foot-3 center Michelle Hall, who shared game-high scoring honors with Salem senior Jill Ealey. Both had 21 points.