

Harrison cupboard won't be left bare

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"I THOUGHT WED' be very good right from the start," Herrington said. "They looked good in the (summer) passing league and in double sessions."

The Hawks were down 6-0 in the season opener with Southfield. But Jason Lichtman returned the ensuing kickoff a school-record 95 yards for a momentum-turning touchdown, and Harrison went on to win 25-13. The Hawks were never on the trailing end of a score the rest of the season.

Little could anyone have imagined that day the Hawks would never score so few points again, and no other team would come within three TDs of matching them.

Coleman and his receiving corps surpassed all expectations for a prolific offense that scored 577 points, and a rebuilt defense offered the perfect complement, allowing no

more than 14 points in any game and just 63 for the season.

"That good? No. I didn't think we'd go the whole season and not have a close game," Herrington said. "It seems so long ago, but I remember being scared to death we wouldn't be able to contain Northville."

RESIDES HAVING a stubborn offense, the key to Harrison's lopsided victories was its ability to rack up the points quickly and easily. Opponents soon became demoralized after seeing Coleman throw over their heads, usually to Wauldron and Burgess, who had a knack for finding the end zone on the other end of a completion.

"When you have the great receiver and the great quarterback, you have the ability to score quickly," Herrington said. "Most high school teams don't have four great defensive backs."

Such was the case in the Silverdome as the Hawks used their passing attack to get the early lead, negate St. Joseph's size advantage in the trenches and turn the championship game into a second-half rout.

In the process, Coleman set a state-final record for passing yards (238) and Wauldron a new standard for yards receiving (177).

We wanted to make the game exciting and exciting," said Herrington, whose team undoubtedly put on the best show of the eight that played in the four title games.

Despite the final outcome, Herrington said he didn't think the lopsided score was a true reflection of a game in which the Hawks had only a 14-9 lead at halftime.

"I DON'T THINK we handled them that easily," he said. "In the first half, they had us in a dogfight. They were doing well up front, and we had a hard time containing (quarterback) Ebon Sanders."

"Our ability to score easily took over and took them out of their game plan. I know it looks like we handled them, but it didn't to me."

The '88 Harrison team will be best remembered for its passing, and the Hawks were arguably the best of any team in the state at doing that. Coleman, who has thrown for 2,000-plus yards in each of his two years at Harrison, was 103-of-171 for a 60-percent rate of completion and 2,074 yards. He threw only six interceptions as opposed to 28 touchdowns.

Wauldron, who ends his career



RANDY BORST/Staff Photographer

Rob MacDonald gets fired up after making a defensive stop in the Silverdome.

with a school-record 1,902 receiving yards on 78 catches, caught 49 passes for 1,190 yards and 18 touchdowns. He had 21 career TD grabs. Burgess had 23 receptions for 423 yards this year, giving him two-year totals of 54 passes, 989 yards and 11 TDs.

Harrison's exceptional talent at the skill positions also translated to defense where the secondary had 33 interceptions, one third of them by Wauldron. But the molding of a new offensive line and the rapid development of a reconstructed defense were other keys.

"WE KNEW (JASON) Buchanan, (Joe) Hannawa, three-year regular (Jeff) Skinner and (Scott) Nichols would be good," Herrington said.

"The surprises were the development of Matt Sperry, Joe George and Dale Katz and the great improvement of Carl Schumacher. Those guys came on and really made our defense."

Coleman, a junior with two state finals already on his resume, has another year before the college recruiters begin chasing him, but Herrington believes Wauldron and Katz,

a 6-foot-6, 233-pound lineman, are major-college prospects. Burgess, Nichols and Skinner also have the potential to play college ball, he added.

If all five continue their careers, it will be further evidence of the quality of the '88 team, the first in school history to win 13 games, if only because teams played just three post-season games the last time Harrison was undefeated in 1982.

Chris Cox, now at Eastern Michigan, was the only scholarship player on last year's 11-2 ballclub, and Michigan State's John Miller and Central Michigan's Dave Delekta were the lone seniors from the '84 outfall, a Class A semifinalist, who played in college.

"We're very close to this team," Herrington said. "The seniors were undefeated as freshmen, and this particular class is very close."

"So today, though we're extremely happy, there is some melancholy that we won't be able to coach them any more."

"TRUTHFULLY, I feel that way about every group that leaves," he added.

Looking ahead to next season, Harrison will have to rebuild its offensive line once again. New receivers will have to surface for the Hawks to take full advantage of Coleman's talent, and the defense will need a major overhaul. Matt Sperry was the only non-senior who played regularly on defense.

"(Coleman's) leadership will be even more important next year," Herrington said. "I think Mill has the ability to make the people around him even better."

"We must develop receivers, and we feel (junior) Scott Ratso will be a good one. Fortunately, that's one of the things we can work on in the off-season."

"The kids will always work on the passing game because it's fun," he added.

Coleman will have one experienced receiver back in Steve Hill,

Football

"We must develop receivers, and we feel (junior) Scott Ratso will be a good one. Fortunately, that's one of the things we can work on in the off-season. The kids will always work on the passing game because it's fun."

— John Herrington
Harrison football coach

who might be moved from swing-back to tight end. The kicking game will remain in good hands with the return of Hill, who has booted eight field goals and well over 100 extra points in two years.

"WE ALSO EXPECT him to be an outstanding inside linebacker along with (sophomore) Elano Sarcevic and (junior) Jon Schaeffer," Herrington said.

While the passing game got more emphasis this year, the Hawks should have a better running attack and be even more balanced next season.

Tailbacks Matt Conley (483 yards, 13 touchdowns) and Joe George (149-7) will be seniors, and everybody knows Coleman (170-7) is a running threat. Plus, sophomore Gary Devine got post-season experience at tailback.

"If we can develop the line, we should be able to run," Herrington said. "We don't have any Kats or Skinners to run over, but that's what makes the off-season so much fun."

Task familiar one for Hawk coaches

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Herrington also has proved he is one of the best coaches in the state, compiling a 153-40-1 record in his 19 years as Harrison's head coach. Including his service as an assistant to Ron Holland at North Farmington, Herrington has been at it for 25 years.

But, if anyone is wondering, he has no plans to give it up. None of this quitting while you're ahead and going out a winner business for Herrington.

"I WOULDN'T EVEN consider it," he said. "For us, my wife and I, football is a big part of our lives. As long as I can keep my staff together, I'll continue."

Bob Sutter has been helping Herrington for 19 years, and Bob Sallow has been a varsity assistant for the last 17. Plus, there's others such as JV coaches Bob Weston and John Witkowski, who do much of the advance scouting.

"I couldn't attempt to do it alone," Herrington said. "As long as they're here, we'll keep going."

With that settled, how about next season? What must the Hawks do to come back with another winner? He mentioned several things that sounded familiar, including the need to rebuild the offensive line.

"John, aren't those the same concerns you cited a year ago this time? And look what happened," the questioner further inquired.

"That drew a heavy laugh from Herrington, who agreed but added the job nonetheless will need to be done again.

"THAT'S SUTTER's job, so I'll let him worry about (the line)," he said. "I'll start worrying about when (quarterback) Mill (Coleman) graduates."

Obviously, with Coleman returning for his senior year next fall, the Hawks will no doubt be rated highly again. But it will take more players, and Harrison loses 20 seniors, including 12 starters.

But the Hawks lost as much to graduation following the 1987 season, and this writer must admit to being skeptical this year. But as many players produced as seniors as had the previous year, making me a firm believer in the Harrison program.

Having a Coleman to start with, seeing a core group of quality juniors coming back and knowing the JV and freshman teams were unbeaten, I will not be surprised to see Harrison back at the top in '89.

The only question may be "How good?"

Eagles OT winners

Eight games into the season, St. Mary's of Orchard Lake still can't seem to put two wins together. The Eagles split four games in five days last week, leaving them at 3-5.

It took overtime for St. Mary's to subdue Wayne State, 90-84, Nov. 18 at WSU. The Eagles trailed 71-43 with 8:42 left in regulation before two three-pointers by Jim Butcher (21 points) put them ahead.

WSU tied it, but in OT James Lakes (13 points) scored two baskets and St. Mary's made all nine of its free throws to win.

On Friday, St. Mary's traveled to the Frank Tindall Tournament at Queens University in Kingston, Ont., and lost its opener 65-59 to Wilfrid Laurier. Lakes netted 16 to pace the Eagles.

They returned Saturday to knock off the University of Windsor 116-109, with seven Eagles reaching double-figures in scoring, led by Butcher's 24. On Sunday, Western Ontario turned the tables on St. Mary's with a 104-100 win. James Curtis' 17 points topped St. Mary's.

The Eagles will travel to Michigan State on Saturday, Dec. 3, and host Wayne State on Sunday, Dec. 4.

NOTICE

TO: LINDA A. MARON AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

That the 1988 Year Atlas of Farmington Hills, 2875 Grand River, was mailed to Linda A. Maron on August 11, 1988. The contents of this atlas will be sold to the highest bidder on Monday, January 3, 1989, at 1:00 P.M. in the City of Farmington Hills, Michigan. It is auctioned before the sale date. These books are not included in the book sale.

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