

Bryant guides St. Mary's past former school

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Vaughn Bryant attended Redford Bishop Borgess three years ago, but just a handful of Borgess football players remember him.

The rest of the current Spartans were either in grade school or middle school and never met him. Bryant, in his third year at Orchard Lake St. Mary's, left a lasting impression Saturday, leading the Eagles to a 37-8 win over the young Spartans at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Bryant completed eight of 11 passes for 115 yards and one touchdown. He also scored one TD rushing and drew rave reviews from Borgess coach Walt Bazylewicz.

"HE'S VERY comparable to the kid at Farmington Harrison (Mill Coleman)," Bazylewicz said. "He's one of the better quarterbacks in the state and doesn't get half the credit he deserves."

Borgess deserved credit early against St. Mary's, taking an 8-0 lead over its highly regarded Class C opponent. The Spartans recovered a St. Mary's fumble in the first quarter at their own 30 yardline and eight plays later, David Dobbin capped their first series with a 4-yard touchdown run. Delwin Sear's two-point conversion gave Borgess an 8-0 lead with 4:30 left in the first quarter.

THE REST of the game belonged to Bryant and his teammates. Bryant directed a 14-play St. Mary's drive that ended with his 1-yard plunge with 9:56 left before halftime, making the score 8-8. The St. Mary's defense set up the Eagles' next two scores.

St. Mary's recovered a fumbled

football

snap on a Borgess punt at the Spartans' 16-yard line. Four plays later Kevin King scored the first of his two rushing TDs.

On Borgess's next series, quarterback Tom Cole was sacked near his 10-yard line and fumbled the ball into the end zone where Rick Harris fell on it to give St. Mary's an 18-8 lead with 5:22 left before halftime. Greg Palmer's extra point gave St. Mary's a 10-8 halftime lead.

THE EAGLES' defense preserved the lead late in the half when it stopped Borgess on four plays inside its own 5-yard line. Other than that stand, St. Mary's coach George Porritt said he wasn't pleased with the Eagles' first-half effort. St. Mary's could have enjoyed a bigger halftime lead, but Bryant's 54-yard punt return for a TD was called back for holding.

"We were very sluggish," he said. "As a team we were not prepared as I thought we were. I'm not taking anything away from Borgess. But our number of penalties and special teams' play were awful today."

King, who rushed for 75 yards on 13 carries, scored his second TD on a 14-yard first quarter run. Bryant found Joe Jefferson in the corner of the end zone for a 10-yard score in the fourth quarter. Nathan Bush finished the scoring, returning a Borgess fumble 35 yards for a TD midway through the fourth quarter.

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St. Mary's recovered a fumbled

North tilt top attraction

By Brad Emons
and Dan O'Meara
staff writers

NOT BAD FOR OPENERS. Your local prep football prognosticators, who strangely agreed on all 14 games last week, came away with identical 12-2 records.

Of course, the biggest surprise to both was Plymouth Canton's upset 30-14 victory at Monroe.

The other game which stunned the experts occurred when Redford Thurston, winless in 1988, upset Dearborn, 7-6.

Week No. 2 has quite a few mismatches, but the most attractive game plus Western Lakes Activities Association members North Farmington (1-0) against Livonia Churchill (0-1) in a non-league crossover on Friday.

Here is a preview of games for the weekend of Sept. 8-9.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
(all 7:30 p.m. unless noted)
Red, Thurston at Taylor Center (4 p.m.): Have the Eagles (1-0) landed after their upset victory last week over Dearborn? Thurston begins its Tri-River League quest against Taylor Center (0-1), a 29-14 loser last week to Belleville. Watch the defense, coordinated by Lee Bjork and led by linebacker Steve Koss, to be the difference. Picks: Thurston makes it two straight wins.

N. Farmington at Liv. Churchill: The Raiders (1-0) have no superstars, just a lot of solid players as evidenced by their 35-7 victory last week over South-Lakeland. Churchill (0-1) is coming off a 35-21 loss to highly-regarded Sterling Heights. Picks: North keeps rolling.

Westland Glenn at Walled Lake Western: Coach Chuck Gordon was not happy after last week's 10-20 loss to the Bulldogs. Glenn (1-0), however, has a week to iron out its problems against Western (0-1), which turned in a respectable

Continued from Page 1

The team has only 41 scholarship players (the NCAA Division I limit is 95). Which means it has little chance to win a game this year. Rice rolled to a 35-6 victory, its first after 18 consecutive losses.

But — as difficult as it may be to comprehend — Wolf found reason for optimism in the defeat. "In the second half, we came out and we were ready to play college football," he said.

TRUE, SMU was outscored just 7-6 in the second half. But that was due to the 100-degree temperatures as much as anything else. Anyway, Wolf's optimism was tempered by reality.

grid predictions

able outing last week against state-ranked Novi, losing 22-7. Picks: It's another tough one for Glenn.

Farmington at Ply. Canton: Which Canton team will show up this week? If the Chiefs play like they did the previous week, this should be no contest. Farmington got waxed 40-0 last week by West Bloomfield. Oh, that's scary. Picks: Canton passes the test easily.

Bishop Borgess at Redford Union: The Panthers (1-0) were less than scintillating in their 16-12 win over Livonia Stevenson last week. Borgess (1-1), under the rebirth of veteran coach Walt Bazylewicz, can only hope they stay close. Picks: Another game played close to the vest, like RU.

Garden City at Romulus: The Cougars (0-1) won only one game all last season, but that came against Romulus. After a 50-7 drubbing last week by Wayne Memorial, GC can only hope for the best. Romulus (1-0) is coached by Dan Henry, who has a penchant for turning things around. The Eagles beat Taylor Truman last week in their opener, 19-14. Picks: The coin flipper: Romulus.

Wyandotte at Wayne Memorial: A breather for the 1-0 Zebra? It should be even though Wolverine A League foe Wyandotte beat Taylor Kennedy last week, 14-10. Wayne has plenty of ammunition stored and should be cracking once again. Picks: Wayne shows true grit.

Clarenceville at Lutheran East: This should be a battle for second place in the Metro Conference. East (1-0), using its stretch offense, rode into Memphis last week and stumbled up a few Elvis cords to the tune of a 34-0 victory as James "Hound Dog" Tubbs ran for a pair of TDs. Meanwhile, Clarenceville (1-0) will find out if "Lutheran floor" is back on the charts. Pick: Clarenceville will be singing "Love Me Tender." Take East.

"That's probably what's going to happen to us the entire year," he admitted. The entire experience — the game, which meant nothing in the national polls, attracted 269 members of the media — was "pretty nerve-racking," said Wolf.

He refuses to regret his decision. "I'm getting a chance to play, so I can't complain. We may lose every game but that's the decision I made when I came here. And one thing I did when I said I was coming here was that I would have no regrets."

WOLF CONTINUES to speak brightly of the

SATURDAY'S GAMES

(all 1 p.m. unless noted)

Liv. Stevenson at Liv. Franklin: This inter-city battle has lost a little luster over the years. Franklin (0-1) and Stevenson (0-1) were both losers last week, but not by much. The Patriots can throw the ball, but can they run? Stevenson, meanwhile, has a quarterback dilemma. Will Randy McCallie start, or will Brian Piergentili go back to fullback. Picks: Franklin's defense makes the difference.

Walled Lake Central at Farm. Harrison: Have the Hawks already taken their best shot in 1989? Last week's 34-18 win over a strong Saginaw Arthur Hill squad only proves they're for real, once again. What little advantage Central (1-0), a 14-0 upset winner over Milford week? Picks: Quarterback Coleman drives another hard bargain as Central is put on layaway.

Lutheran Westland at Peck: Brown City defeated Peck last week, 34-0. Lutheran High Westland took out Mount Clemens Cardinal Mooney, 8-6, despite being outgained in total yardage almost 6-to-1. Is the home field an advantage? It shouldn't be because Lutheran Westland lost to Peck on its home turf last year. Picks: Call 1-800-hope. Emons takes Lutheran Westland. O'Meara picks Peck.

St. Agatha at Traverse City St. Francis: Both teams are 0-1, but the Aggies have never done well in this matchup. St. Ignace beat St. Francis last week, 14-8. Just once would the Observer sports department like to see Agatha coach John Goddard take a victory clip in Grand Traverse Bay. Picks: St. Francis plays like the Bear. Goddard will stay dry another season.

Redford CC vs. Lansing Eastern (7:30 p.m. at Clarenceville): Ypsi's Wardell Davis riddled the Eastern defense last week for 206 yards in a 23-6 victory. Don't be surprised if CC tailback Dave Owens does the same thing this week. Tommie Boyd is a line quarterback for the Quakers and Anthony Lloyd (6-2, 250) and Joe Lopez (6-2, 220) measure up to CC's huge line, or do they? Picks: The Shamrocks go full speed ahead into their matchup next week with Ann Arbor Pioneer.

Wolf happy playing for Mustangs

future. Against Rice, Wolf gained 23 yards rushing on eight rushes; he is a slot receiver in SMU's run-and-shoot offense, the same type used by the Lions.

With little hope for victory — SMU's schedule includes games against Houston, Texas A&M, Arkansas and at Notre Dame — Wolf's goals, by necessity, are different. "I want to play up to my ability," he says. "We're trying to bring the program back. That's the way it is for everyone on the team."

"Probably our biggest hope is that one day everything will come together for us."

And the hoped-for result is a victory. It will take a lot of patience, though, and a lot of effort.

CC rips Osborn in Dome

Redford Catholic Central's David Owens ran wild Saturday in the Pontiac Silverdome.

The 5-foot-7, 165-pound senior tailback rushed for 124 yards in 15 carries and two touchdowns, propelling the Shamrocks a season-opening 31-0 victory over Detroit Osborn.

CC took a 3-0 first-quarter lead on a 26-yard field goal from Kerry Zavaniga. (He also went 4-for-4 in extra points.)

Owens then ripped off a 74-yard TD run in the second quarter and followed that with a 55-yard TD on a punt return.

It was Owens' 29-yard punt return later in the same quarter that set up another CC touchdown. Junior tightback Jason Carr gave the Shamrocks a 24-0 lead at intermission when he hit senior Mike Mathis with a 30-yard scoring strike.

CC closed out the scoring in the final quarter when backup quarterback Jack Davidson raced into the end zone on a 22-yard dash.

"Carr, making his first start, completed three of eight passes for 48 yards. CC added 239 on the ground for a total of 287 (to Osborn's 135). Junior Brian Chaney added 42 yards rushing on 10 carries.

Defensively for CC, senior tackle Ryan Bell led with seven tackles, including one sack. Teammate Mike Thomas, a defensive back, picked off a pass.

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 9, MOONEY 6: Despite being outgained 251-43 in total yards, Lutheran High of Westland successfully opened its season Saturday at home with a victory over Mount Clemens Cardinal Mooney.

Mooney's Eric Lamont, who led all rushers with 58 yards and added 31 yards in receptions, broke a scoreless deadlock in the third quarter. He scored on a 1-yard run, but the extra point kick was partially blocked.

On the ensuing kickoff, Lutheran Westland's Mike Hardies ran for an 88-yard touchdown and Jason Zielinski (30 yards rushing in 10 attempts) added the two-point conversion to give the Warriors the victory.

"Bend, but don't break" was our motto," said Lutheran Westland coach Dennis Tymol. "They (Mooney) only got it down there (in scoring position) only once, even with all those yards."

"They had three turnovers and our kicking game, Mike Hardies' punting in particular, played a big role. We were able to keep them out of good field position."

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