

Sports

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(F16)

Farmington girls charge past Salem

Farmington has taken a back seat to Plymouth Canton in girls cross country the last two years, but 1989 could be the Falcons' year.

While having good teams, Farmington was overshadowed by two-time Western Lakes Activities Association champ Canton. But the Falcons appear to have the talent to finally pass the Chiefs.

Having won the girls meet at the Schoolcraft Invitational on Sept. 16, Farmington won its fourth straight dual meet by beating Plymouth Salem 19-41 Thursday at Cass Benton Park.

"They're for real," said Farmington coach John Barrett of his runners. "We did well in

duals last year" — the Falcons have won 24 straight — "but not so well in invitationals. "Canton was so strong and it was hard to get anything more than second or third. This is a much better pack of runners."

The Falcons, 1-0 in the Lakes Division, captured four of the top five places and six of the first eight against Salem, 0-1 and 0-2.

Farmington's Jennifer Kiel won the race in 21:21, and teammate Jenny Derwinski was second at 21:43. Margaret Martin came in fourth (22:10), Allison Davis fifth (22:10), Gretchen Clappison seventh (23:47) and Sherri Ylitalo eighth (23:19).

Carrie Waller and Cheryl Casaroll acted as blockers, pushing Salem's No. 4 and 5

cross country

runners farther back. Waller was 10th overall at 23:42 and Casaroll 11th at 24:07.

"Jennifer Kiel is an outstanding runner and has won every race she's been in," Barrett said. "But after her we have a good pack of runners."

"We have three or four fighting for the No. 7 spot. When we have an invitational

preceded by a dual, there's a lot of competition to see who will be that seventh runner in the invitational. And there's a lot of internal competition to see who will be the No. 2-3 runners."

"I think this team has the ability to do well at state," he added. "We just have to get there."

Finishing in the top 10 for Salem were Corey Gulkewicz, third, 21:55; Jenny Harris, sixth, 22:36; and Allison Rybski, ninth, 23:26. Jenny Marszke was 12th (24:28) and Cathy Boyd 13th (25:41).

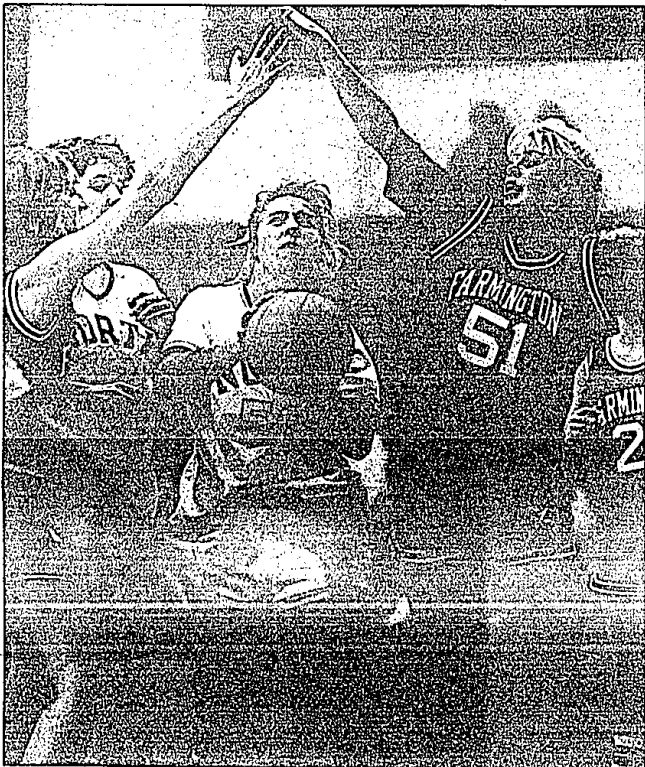
JOHN GLENN 27, N. FARMINGTON 28: Lisa Rives of North was the individual

winner, but the Rockets, who took the next three places, filled in behind her and managed to gain a narrow edge.

Rives won the race at Oakland Community College in 20:12, but Glenn's Darlene Rousseau, Dana Nowicki and Yvonne Waddell followed her across the line in 22:43, 22:51 and 23:04, respectively. Glenn's top three outsourced North's 9-12.

The Raiders put their runners in the No. 5-7 places. Kara Higley ran 23:20, Angela Martin 24:26 and Adrienne Moccio 24:28.

But another key was Glenn's Cathy Bachand taking eighth place in 24:56. Marj Scott of North was ninth (25:07) and Jennifer Van Goff of the Rockets 10th (25:52).



Amy Post of North Farmington finds her path to the basket impeded by Farmington's Bonnie Wheeler (left) and Erika Hatcher. The Raiders

won the game 53-44 with the help of 23 points from Eve Clear. Hatcher paced the Falcons with 14 points.

North sinks Falcons

By Dan O'Meara staff writer

Eve Clear's role on the North Farmington girls basketball team is that of a scorer, but even she was surprised to learn how many she scored in the first half Thursday.

With a 21-point half, Clear singlehandedly provided the jump-start that carried the host Raiders to a 53-44 victory over Farmington.

North, which snapped a two-game losing skid, is 4-2 overall and 1-0 in the Lakes Division, the Falcons 2-4 and 0-1, respectively.

Clear had only two points in the second half — she was still the game's leading scorer — after the Falcons focused their defense on her, but North had a 31-23 half-time lead, thanks to Clear's early performance.

"I find myself scoring more in the first half," she said, "because they usually play off me. In the second half, I see a box-and-one a lot, and I try to get the rest of the team involved when they're keying on me."

MOST OF THE second-half help that preserved what Clear did earlier came from Dana Botwick, who came off the bench to score her 10 points in the second half,

including six third-quarter baskets from the perimeter. "The person who really came through was Dana Botwick," North coach Greg Capling said. "They concentrated on Eve, and she was the open player. And she put the shots down."

Kim Gurecki, the other regular scorer for the Raiders, contributed 12 and center Vikki Seamons eight, but Botwick's scoring was essential since the Falcons were within six points, 39-33, at the end of three quarters.

"I don't mind scoring, but the rest of the team has to be ready to contribute for Kim and I to be effective," Clear said. "Otherwise, they'll just key on us and get us in trouble."

The Raiders also had to adjust their defense to stop Farmington's Erika Hatcher. The center scored 10 points in the first half to keep the Falcons competitive but had only one field goal in the second and ended with 14 points. Hatcher also had five rebounds.

"Maybe (her scoring went down) because she worked so hard on defense against Eve," Farmington coach Diana Fair said, "but others weren't willing to open things up for her. But it was, by far, her best game."

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Farmington's Mandy Cannon advances the ball upcourt against North's Vikki Seamons (42) and Kim Gurecki.

Harrison runs over Mustangs

Steve Hill scored three first-half touchdowns Friday to lead Farmington Hills Harrison to a 51-10 pounding of host Northville in a Western Lakes Activities Association Western Division encounter.

Hill scored on runs of 1 and 4 yards in the first quarter and recovered a fumble by teammate Matt Conley in the end zone in the second quarter. He also kicked five extra points.

The Hawks jumped on Northville early, breaking out to 21-0 lead after one quarter of play.

The Hawks first reached paydirt with 9:45 left in the period on a 38-yard pass from quarterback Mill Coleman to Mike Saputo. Hill's point-after made the score 7-0.

The Hawks struck again at the 5:38 mark on Hill's 1-yard run. Coleman's pass to Jon Schaeffer successfully completed the two-point conversion, and the Hawks led 15-0.

HILL STRUCK again from 4 yards out with :51 remaining in the quarter and then added the PAT to complete the first-quarter scoring.

Harrison padded its lead in the second quarter on Hill's fumble recovery for a touchdown. Coleman hit Saputo for the two-point play after the score, making the count 30-0.

Harrison added one more first-half score later in the period, with Gary Devine running 20 yards to paydirt. Hill's PAT made the score 37-0.

The Mustangs finally got on the scoreboard with 1:27 left in the half on a 4-yard run by halfback Bill Kelley. The successful extra point left the score 37-7 at the intermission.

Conley took over for the Hawks in the third quarter, scoring their final two touchdowns. Coleman hit Conley with an 11-yard pass, and Conley scored the final touchdown on a 1-yard run. Hill added both extra points, making the count 51-7.

Northville tallied the only points of the fourth quarter on a field goal, thus completing the scoring.

Harrison dominated the game statistically as well, rushing for 377 yards and passing for 159 more. The Mustangs were held to 31 yards rushing and 94 passing. Sophomore quarterback Ryan Hujak was 8-of-26 with two interceptions.

COLEMAN HAD another solid game for Harrison, hitting eight of 12 passes for 124 yards and two TDs. He also rushed for 92 yards on eight carries and completed passes for a pair of two-point conversions.

Conley (77 yards on 15 carries) and Devine (9 on nine) were the other leading ground gainers for the Hawks. Saputo was the receiving star for Harrison, catching two passes for 75 yards.

North defense goes on offensive

By Dan O'Meara staff writer

Farmington's defense held North Farmington to a field goal in the first half and 17 yards in total offense in the third quarter Saturday afternoon.

So what went wrong? How did the visiting Raiders end up leading 24-0 after three periods and eventually winning 50-0?

It wasn't that Farmington's defense couldn't stop the North offense but rather the Farmington offense couldn't hold the Raider defense.

North, 1-1 in the Lakes Division and 3-1 overall, returned an interception, a blocked punt and a good punt for touchdowns, and the Raiders also converted a fumble recovery and another interception to account for their 35-point second half.

"Defense was our best offense," North coach Jim O'Leary said. "We didn't move the ball with any consistency. They were beating us off the ball in the first half. In the second half, the defense scored all of our points. We only had one drive."

THE BALL TOOK a North bounce on the first play of the third quarter when Todd Pawlowski caused a fumble at the Farmington 5-yard line. Brad Hirschman scored on the next play.

With the Falcons at their 12 in the quarter, linebacker Jason Hamill intercepted Chris Schmid and had an easy six points in front of him.

"We knew they ran that route over the middle, and I was looking for it all day," Hamill said. "I was surprised to see the daylight, though."

"We came out flat in the first half. In the second half, we played solid football and stuck it to them. We're defense oriented, and we rose to the occasion."

After holding Farmington on its next possession at the 20, North's Rob Zeno blocked the punt, and the 6-foot-4 Pawlowski grabbed the ball in

mid-air and stepped into the end zone for a 24-0 score with 2:10 still to play in the third.

Suddenly, what had been a close game in the first half, with the Falcons able to contain North's offense, was getting out of hand. O'Leary directed all the credit for the second-half revival to defensive coordinator Mark Babcock.

"WE CHANGED A few things at halftime," Babcock said. "We ran some stunts and put some pressure on them."

"We needed a spark, and the defense was called in one the kids rally behind and like. It gets them excited."

On first down following Pawlowski's score, Chris White intercepted Schmid again, and that led to the only sustained scoring drive of the day for the Raiders. North went 60 yards in nine plays, quarterback Jon Kraus running 6 yards on the bootleg for the TD.

Farmington's special teams self-destructed three more when White, after the Falcons were three and out on their next series, returned the punt 63 yards to conclude the scoring.

"I've always said the punt team is the most important special team," Farmington coach Rick Milhizer said. "Somewhere along the way we broke down, and it cost us big time."

"The defense played well for most of the game, but there was a total breakdown in the second half. The defense didn't play well enough when it had to."

After the Falcons, 0-2 and 0-4, put a stranglehold on North in the first half — the Raiders had 92 yards passing but only 12 rushing — O'Leary said his team needed to make more adjustments than simply the physical kind.

NORTH, WHICH had half as many first downs (4-2) as Farmington in the first half, led 3-0 on

Mike Cowen's 20-yard field goal. That, too, followed a blocked punt by Matt Mummert, but the Falcons held at their 3 and forced North to compromise.

"In all honesty, we did more attitude adjusting," O'Leary said. "The kids were not into the game. They thought Farmington would lie down and die — and they didn't."

"Farmington did a good job shutting us down. We helped them (an interception and losing one of four fumbles), but they played an outstanding first half."

"The longer you let a team stay in the ball game the more positive they get," he added. North outgained the Falcons 170-83. Kraus was 5-of-10 passing for 60 yards, and Brad Hirschman was the top rusher with 23 yards on nine carries. John Low caught two passes for 51 yards.

Farmington's Dave Winey ran for a game-high 41 yards on 12 attempts, and Schmid was 5-of-14 passing for 39 yards with four interceptions.

FARMINGTON HAS played four teams — West Bloomfield (3-1), Plymouth Canton (4-0), Plymouth Salem (4-0) and North — with a combined winning percentage of .875, and the Falcons face unbeaten Westland John Glenn (4-0) on the road Friday night.

"No doubt our schedule has been tough," Milhizer said, "but our biggest concern is taking care of ourselves and doing what we can do."

It was frustrating for Farmington, after the defense stuffed the Raiders in the first half, to see the game get out of hand due to turnovers and the failure of the special teams.

"We showed, when we play inspired football, we can be a good football team," Milhizer said. "In the second half, they wanted it more than we did."