

There's new No. 1 seer

By Brad Emons
and Dan O'Meara
staff writers

THERE'S A NEW LEADER among your friendly high school football prognosticators.

Yes, it's been over two years since the man from Livonia (Brad Emons) has enjoyed any kind of prosperity. After going 12-2 last week, Emons vaults into first at 43-13 overall, while the luck of his Irish counterpart, Dan O'Meara, stumbled to 42-14 for the season after going 11-3 in Week No. 4.

Slim as the lead may be, it should make for an interesting race down the stretch.

The new leader vows that if he can keep up this current pace, he'll win at least five games. (O'Meara won by seven a year ago.)

But if he falters, then it could mean retirement, yielding to the likes of Darryl the Turkey, J.P. McCarthy or Brulser the Dog. Either he'll be gobbled up or barked out of town.

Here goes for Week No. 5:

FRIDAY'S GAMES

(all games at 7:30 p.m., unless noted)

Garden City at Dtn. Edsel Ford (3:30 p.m.): You have to toil for the winless Cougars, who came to close in their last two outings. Beating unbeaten Edsel Ford, which appears to be the class of the Northwest Suburban League, is a monumental task. Picks: The T-Birds look to be vintage again.

Clarencville at Del. Lutheran West (7 p.m.): This is the unbeaten Trojans' toughest test to date. West (3-1) is coming off a 54-0 romp over Hamtramck. Coach Vic Balajka has Clarencville on the

grid predictions

right track. Can he do it another week? Picks: West has the slight edge playing at home, according to Emons. O'Meara says it will be "Five on Friday" for the Trojans.

Northville at Liv. Churchill: What do these two teams have in common? Both have been beaten soundly by Farmington Harrison. The Mustangs (1-3) lost 51-10 to Harrison last week, while the Chargers, perhaps the best winless team in the state, fell to the No. 1 Hawks, 48-7, two weeks ago. Churchill's schedule has been more demanding: Starting Highills, North Farmington, Harrison and Plymouth Canton (combined record 14-2). Picks: Churchill starts a five-game winning streak.

Farmington at Westland Glenn: Don't confuse these Rockets with Imael, but they can live plenty of missiles. Winless Farmington hasn't played anybody up to snuff, sporting a lone field goal. The Falcons may have to wait another week before scoring a touchdown. Picks: Glenn launches toward its fifth straight win.

Ply. Salem at W.L. Central: The unbeaten Rockets are solid, while Walled Lake is fighting a three-game losing streak. The Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association has become the big three (Glenn, Salem and North Farmington) and the little three (Farmington, Stevenson and Central). Picks: Central can't break the Salem wishbone.

W.L. Western at PLY. Canton: The Chieftans (4-0) are working on an unbelievable five-game winning streak (dating back to their 1988 season finale victory over Salem). Western got its first win last week, 7-5, against charitable Livonia

Franklin. Picks: Canton secures its first winning season in school history.

Jackson Northwest at Redford Union (Hilbert Jr. High): Last year's game between the two was a shootout. RU prevailed, 42-37. The Class B Mounties (2-2) are fresh from a 20-18 victory over Tecumseh Meanwhile, RU (1-3) may still be reeling from a 41-0 shellacking by Dearborn Edsel Ford. The scouting report says both teams are big, but look like Luthers. Picks: The youthful Mounties come away with a narrow victory.

Lincoln Park at Wayne Memorial: The Zebras (3-1) can put themselves in contention again in the Wolverine A League race with a victory against the Palisades. Lincoln Park has a 16-6 record, but previously winless Monroe. Last week Wayne quarterback Brent Topp threw for 155 yards in a rout of Southgate. Picks: Lincoln Park hears Topp again this week.

Redford CC vs. Bishop Gallagher (Roseville Memorial Field): Gallagher is the most dangerous 2-2 team in the state with the likes of quarterback Roman Batten and tailback Jesse Johnson. Gallagher rallied last week to beat Warren DeLaSalle, while CC was less than sterling offensively in a 10-0 shutout of Redford Bishop Burgess. Picks: Emons likes his neck out, picks Gallagher to snap CC's four-game shutout streak and more importantly the Shamrocks' four-game winning streak. Defense is more of an indicator than offense, and O'Meara plans to stay with CC.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

(all games at 1 p.m., unless noted)

Liv. Franklin at Farm. Harrison: The Patriots' defense has been good most of the season, but against the likes of unbeaten Harrison, it may look like paper mache. The Patriots' only consolation will be that it's the last time they'll face Hawks' super QB Mike Coleman. Picks:

Emons took a lot of guff from the Harrison coaching staff last year for picking Franklin, which was waxed by 40. OK, guys, how about Harrison by 50 this time?

Lutheran N'west at Lutheran Westland: The only thing we can tell you is that a lot of Lutherans will be on the field. Westland (1-3) got one of its two victories last season against the Crusaders (0-4). Picks: Forget the coin flip, take Lutheran Westland.

Liv. Stevenson at N. Farmington: North (3-1) can't afford another slow start, a 3-0 halftime lead in a 38-0 win against Farmington, because Stevenson (1-3) can play opportunistic football. But its another "have" against the "have not" battle in the Lakes Division. Picks: North makes it two straight.

Melvindale at Red. Thurston: Thurston is 5-0. That's news. Melvindale is also 2-2 and coming off a 7-0 triumph over winless Dearborn Heights Crestwood. It should be a defensive delight. Look for somebody to take a safety or two to break the shutout. Picks: Thurston goes to 2-2 in the Tri-River League.

St. Agatha vs. Redford St. Mary's (7:30 p.m. at Hilbert Jr. High): The Aggies (3-1) have won three straight, all on shutouts. Redford St. Mary's broke a three-game losing streak with a 6-3 triumph over Dearborn St. Alphonsus. Where will Agatha coach John Goodard be taking a victory dip this week? Picks: Goodard jumps in the newly rejuvenated, spring-fed Rouge River.

Bishop Burgess vs. Harper Wds. ND (7:30 p.m. at Garden City Jr. High): Burgess coach Wally Bazylewicz may be 67, but he's doing the coaching job of a wise 37-year-old. The Spartans may be 1-3, but they've played the last two weeks like they're 3-1. The Notre Dame Fighting Irish (1-3) scored three times last week in a 29-15 loss to Rice. Look for lots of scoring. Picks: Notre Dame wins this shootout.

CC coach Tom Mach. "He earns every yard he gets and he sure got some here tonight."

DESPITE OWENS' effective ground attack, the Shamrocks still had trouble moving the ball through the air. Starting quarterback Jason Carr and backup Jack Davidson combined for just 21 yards. Carr completed two of nine passes for 12 yards and Davidson was one of one for 9 yards.

"I really thought we'd be able to pass a little more," Mach said. "But you got to be prepared for anything. Give Burgess a lot of credit. They played good defense."

The Spartan defense limited the Shamrocks to just 215 yards total offense. They had 13 first downs.

Offensively, the Spartans were led by tailback Delwin Sear, who accumulated 95 yards on 18 carries. He was complemented by Burgess quarterback Tom Cole, who completed seven of 14 passes for 125 yards.

CC stops Spartans for No. 4

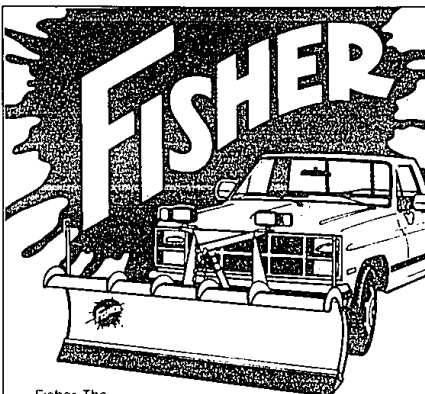
By Ray Sollock
staff writer

Credit the Redford Catholic Central defense with another shutout and credit the team with a perfect 4-0 record, as the Shamrocks defeated Redford Bishop Burgess 10-0 Saturday at Livonia Clarencville.

When crunch time came, the Shamrocks had to look no further than tailback Dave Owens. He scored CC's only touchdown on a nifty 1-yard run between two Spartan defenders and gained a game-high 107 yards on 23 carries.

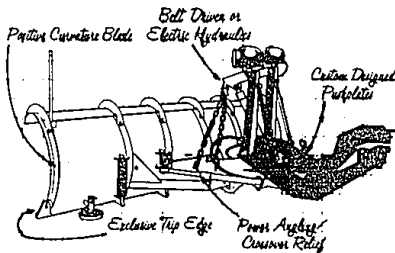
Owens' fourth quarter touchdown put the lid on CC's victory. It gave CC the cushion they needed, as the Shamrocks spent most of the game riding a 3-0 lead, thanks to senior Kerry Zavagnin's field goal in the first quarter.

"Owens has been carrying the ball well for us," said



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We Invite God Calls

Mercy cagers trip top power Saginaw

Coach Larry Baker believes his Farmington Hills Mercy basketball team is beginning to become just that: a team.

Mercy's meeting with perennial Class A power Saginaw was certainly an indication of that Saturday.

The Marlins played solid defense and toppled the Lady Trojans, who entered the week undefeated and rated No. 6 in the state. Saginaw (5-2) lost to Flint Northern before dropping a 42-30 decision at Mercy.

"I would really like to know when the last time was Saginaw didn't score more than 30 points against anybody," Baker said.

"It was a sorry lesson we learned against Regina (losing 55-53 on Sept. 21). We weren't sharp at getting back after a missed shot."

"AGAINST SAGINAW — and a quicker team — we did a real good job of getting back and not letting them score any easy baskets," he added.

Baker had center Lee Albrecht coming off the bench instead of starting, and the 5-foot-11 senior responded in that situation with 12 points and six rebounds.

"Lee played like that off the bench against South Lyon," Baker said. "She's going to come in and not have to think about pacing herself or how many fouls she might get."

Joanne Stephens scored 10 points, and Jenny Clinton had eight points and six assists for the Marlins. Maureen Paulin pulled down another six rebounds. Janee Youngblood tallied a game-high 13 points for the Lady Trojans.

"Jenny Clinton ran a real fine floor game," Baker said. "She controlled the tempo for 90 percent of the time, and that was really the key to our success."

"Coming off Game 7, hopefully we're learning how to win games against the tough opponents we have to face."

CC golfers club Lancers

The Redford Catholic Central golf team, ranked sixth in Class A, made short work of Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher, as the Shamrocks whipped the Lancers, 155-217, in a Central Division match Monday at Bruce Burn Golf Club.

With the victory, CC improves its record to 6-0, while Gallagher drops to 1-6.

Scott Krueger and Joe Sullivan led the Shamrocks with scores of 37. Jeff Brown and Mike Brady also enjoyed good rounds for CC, carding 39 and 40 respectively.

LIVONIA STEVENSON, in its most recent outing on Monday, couldn't put all the pieces together, as Plymouth Canton beat the Spartans, 204-215, in a Western Lakes match at Whispering Willows.

Brian Ransom's 41 led Stevenson. Teammate Pete Theophelis shot a 42 for the Spartans, while Joe Atwell stroked a 43 and Mark Peterson and Brian Fawkes each scored 44.

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