



# It's not as easy, but Hawks retain title

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

Farmington Harrison survived a series of hard knocks Friday, capturing its second straight Western Lakes Activities Association football title with a 23-15 victory over host Westland John Glenn in a battle of unbeaten.

The Hawks, who extended their unbeaten streak to 21 games, were given their stiffest test since a season-opening 34-18 victory over Saginaw Arthur Hill.

Once again quarterback Mill Coleman was the catalyst.

The elusive 5-foot-9 senior, who also spent part of the night playing safety, completed 12 of 21 passes for 161 yards. He made several clutch plays, including a diving interception of an Eric Stover pass in the end zone to thwart a Glenn scoring threat just before intermission.

Late in the game, with Glenn's defense primed to force a Harrison punt, Coleman completed a 15-yard screen pass to Joe George on third-and-12 from his own 17.

The first down enabled the Hawks to kill the clock and walk away with their third WLAA title in four years.

"I THOUGHT MILL was outstanding," said Harrison coach John Herrington. "They put a lot of pressure on him and they contained his running pretty well, but he made some big plays, including the one to Joe George."

"We didn't want to punt to them because they (Glenn) were really jacked up at that point."

Glenn, which rallied the week before in the final seconds to nip Plymouth Salem, 7-6, for the WLAA's Lakes Division crown, had many of the same thoughts against the state's No. 1 ranked team in Class B.

to play, Stover completed an electrifying 55-yard touchdown strike to Mark Wetmore.

The Rockets, trailing 23-13, went for the two-point and converted on a pass from Stover to David Ryan, cutting the lead to eight.

On the ensuing kickoff, Harrison return man Roy Granger was nailed by a Glenn tackler just inside the 20.

The ball popped loose and a mad scramble ensued.

The Glenn side erupted in pandemonium when Bryan Clark came up with the ball, but officials ruled Granger was down. There was not a

fumble and Harrison retained possession.

GLENN COACH Chuck Gordon was fuming about the referee's decision afterwards. He vehemently made his feelings known to the lead official after the final gun had sounded.

"I don't want to take anything away from Farmington Harrison because they're a great football team," Gordon said. "They're well coached and very deserving, but that was a horrendous call. It's a difficult thing to explain to my kids, but we'll deal

with it the best we can.

"I've never talked to an official in 13 years, never said 'boo,' but there comes a point in time where you have to stick up for your players and I felt I had to speak out."

Glenn, however, had plenty of chances for an upset victory.

On Harrison's opening possession, Tom Luxton pounced on a Coleman fumble at the Hawks' 43, but the Rockets stalled after dropping a pair of passes.

But on Glenn's next possession, Stover, who completed seven of 17 passes for 159 yards on the night, threw a perfect strike to Ryan, who made a diving catch in the end zone with only five seconds left in the period.

And after Mark Wetmore's extra point made it 7-0, Harrison found itself behind for the first time since the opening game of the 1988 season against Southfield.

"IT REALLY DIDN'T bother us being down, but it bothered me and the coaching staff a little more because we were down against a good football team," Herrington said.

The momentum turned Harrison's way in the second quarter as Coleman directed a seven-play, 76-yard drive capped by Matt Conley's 2-yard run with 9:03 left in the half, but the Hawks were still down 7-6 when a rarity occurred.

Steve Hill's extra point attempt was blocked by Luxton.

But Hill and the Hawks came storming back again on their next possession.

The senior drilled a 37-yard field goal with 2:04 to play, giving Harrison a 9-7 lead.

Glenn then began maneuvering down the field again, marching down to the Harrison 26 to get into position for a go-ahead field goal.

But the bid was all but wiped out



Mike Saputo tries to elude Glenn defender Tommy Lawrence after hauling in a Mill Coleman pass in the WLAA championship game Friday.

by Coleman, who picked off Stover's pass, tipping the ball to himself in the end zone with 21 seconds left.

"We didn't feel a letdown there, but we were in field goal range," Gordon said. "Then again, we could have been up at the half."

Harrison's defense came up with a pivotal play at the outset of the third period.

UNDER A HEAVY RUSH, Stover was stripped of the ball by Blazo

Sarcevic and George recovered it at the Glenn 33.

Seven plays later, Conley bolted in on fourth-and-goal from 1-yard out and Hill added the PAT to make it 16-7 for Harrison.

Later in the quarter, Stover was intercepted by Granger, but Coleman was picked off by lineman Sam Weddington as the teams traded turnovers.

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Harrison defenders Blazo Sarcevic, Jeff Peer (55), Matt Sperry (53) and Tony Shalob (72) try in vain to block a Glenn extra-point attempt.

# Playoff-hopeful Chiefs pass big test at North

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

North Farmington was playing for pride, but Plymouth Canton had something more tangible riding on the outcome of Saturday's football game.

The Chiefs are in the running for their first-ever appearance in post-season play, and they kept those hopes afloat with a 20-13 victory at North.

Canton plays arch-rival Plymouth Salem in the season finale Friday night, and the winner most likely will qualify for the Class A playoffs the following week. Both are 7-1.

"What more could you want in a game?" Canton coach Bob Khoenle said. "It's all on the table. Who's going to get it?"

Khoenle added that the Chiefs will have to

play better than they did Saturday when their errors — both teams had 80 yards in penalties — contributed to North's only scoring drive and hurt their offensive effort.

THE RAIDERS, 5-3, made their share of mistakes, too, and Canton turned one of three North fumbles into the game-winning touchdown early in the fourth quarter.

North, leading 10-7, had the ball at its 20-yard line after Canton's Mike Krejcar missed a potential game-tying field goal from 31 yards.

Quarterback Eric Dettler dropped to pass but had the ball knocked loose by Canton linebacker Corey Johnson, who was rushing from the blind side. The ball fell into the arms of Brian Bartlett, the front-side end, who carried it to the 4.

Jason Riggs scored two plays later on a 3-yard run to make it 14-10 with Krejcar's extra-point kick.

"I had TD on my mind," Bartlett said. "I thought the 5-yard line was the goal line. I just had to get the ball in."

"We got some big breaks, but that's all part of the game," Khoenle said. "They made 'em and we took advantage of them. I thought we came out awful flat today, but we hung in there."

THE CHIEFS stopped a North drive on its next possession and forced the Raiders to settle for a Mike Cowen field goal for the second time. Cowen, who booted a 31-yarder in the first half for North's first points, connected from 34 yards to bring the Raiders within 14-13.

Canton, however, responded with a victory-clinching drive, which was greatly helped by a North face-mask penalty. The Chiefs had already marched 46 yards when the infraction put the ball on the Raider 19.

On first down, fullback Chris James dashed up the middle for his second TD run, the Chiefs going up 20-13 with 4:02 remaining after Karl Wukie's conversion pass was deflected.

"We didn't play very good defense today for some reason," North coach Jim O'Leary said. "We gave up some big plays that we haven't all year."

"The first (Canton) TD was basically a dive play, and the linebacker didn't get there to cover it."

The second time Canton had the ball — again on first down — James burst through

the middle for a 63-yard run and a 7-0 lead.

THE TEAMS exchanged five punts and managed one first down between them before the Raiders scored their only TD just before halftime.

North started at the Canton 35 following a late hit on the punt, and two offside penalties also helped. Dettler, making his first start at quarterback, scored with 41 seconds left on a 1-yard sneak.

O'Leary decided Dettler, who had never played football until this year but is the better passer, was ready to play quarterback and moved Jon Kraus, a hard-nosed runner, to tailback.

Dettler was 4-of-12 passing for 90 yards, and Kraus carried the ball 28 times for 90 yards.



Elaína Trager of Harrison won the diving competition with 199.35 points. The Hawks had no trouble beating Western 100-59.

# City swimmers have perfect night

City teams made a clean sweep of three girls swimming dual meets Thursday night.

Farmington trounced Walled Lake Central 129-38, Farmington Hills Harrison routed Walled Lake Western 106-59 and North Farmington bounced Plymouth Salem 102-70.

Katie Hohl and Laura Hryczyk were double winners for the Falcons, 3-3 overall.

Hryczyk captured the 50 freestyle (27.78) and the 100 with a 1:01.2 effort. Hohl's victories came in the 200 freestyle (2:02.9) and the backstroke in 1:08.1.

In winning every event, Farmington's Kary Tellerico and Nicole Geratowski had one individual win each and were on winning relay teams.

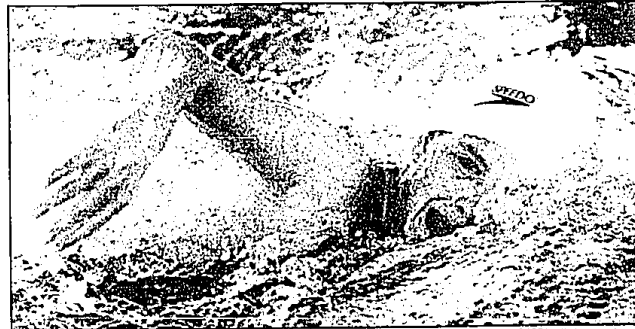
Tellerico was the butterfly winner (1:15.72) and combined with Sara Kiel, Monika Kurzer and Colleen Hall to win the freestyle relay in 4:27.2.

Honors went to Geratowski in the breaststroke (1:18.4), and she swam the second leg of the medley relay, which included Rachel Stauffer, Amy Otulaj and Hryczyk and finished in 2:10.46.

Farmington's Tonya Slicker had 202.25 points to win the diving. Emily Otulaj posted a 2:47.38 time in the IM, and Missy Kendall prevailed in the 500 freestyle with a 5:45.4 effort.

The Falcons will be host to Livonia Stevenson at 7 p.m. Thursday.

HARRISON, 2-1 in the Western Division and 2-4-2 overall, also had two individual winners in Jill Murany and Stacy Krause.



Veronica Forberger contributed first place in the 100-yard backstroke and a portion of the successful freestyle relay to Harrison's victory. The Hawks are currently tied with Northville and Plymouth Canton for the Western Division lead.

Both swimmers were on the winning medley relay team, too. Krause, Meredith Perish, Murany and Michelle Doepker had a 2:08.43 time.

Perish and Doepker also had solo wins as did Veronica Forberger and Margaret O'Sullivan, both of whom were members of the first-place freestyle relay squad along with Doepker.

Perish triumphed in the 100 freestyle (1:04.83) and Doepker the 50 freestyle (28.10). Forberger won the backstroke (1:15.73) and O'Sullivan the 500 freestyle with a personal best of 5:34.54.

The freestyle relay, which consisted of Lisa Schaner, O'Sullivan, For-

berger and Doepker, completed that event in 4:27.28.

Rounding out the parade of winners for the Hawks, who also won every event, was diver Elaína Trager, who compiled a 199.35 total.

NORTH FARMINGTON kept chugging toward a Lakes Division girls swimming championship in the Western Lakes Activities Association with Thursday's 102-70 swamping of the Rocks, at Salem.

Three Raiders won two individual events apiece: Kari Kranz captured the 100-yard (55.96) and 200-yard (2:01.03) freestyle; Kerry Doran was first in the 200 individual med-

ley (2:17.89) and 500 free (5:27.77); and Christie Duthie was best in the 50 free (25.84) and 100 butterfly (1:01.45).

Other North winners were Anna Palmer in the 100 breaststroke (1:10.81), Julianne Markey, Palmer, Doran and Jennifer Wagner in the 200 medley relay (1:57.63), and Emily Shively, Kranz, Carrie Worthen and Duthie in the 400 free relay (3:55.04).

The victory kept the Raiders, ranked third in last week's Class A girls swimming poll by the coaches' association, perfect after six dual meets. They host Dearborn at 7 p.m. Tuesday.