

Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312



Monday, November 20, 1989 O&E

(F1C)

Hawks slide into Class B football final

Harrison ices EGR, Dome visit

By Dan O'Meara staff writer

Farmington Hills Harrison played its Class B semifinal football game on a sheet of ice, so it was no surprise the hockey score resulted.

The Hawks, their potent offense stymied by a slick and slippery artificial surface in Flint Atwood Stadium, got a 30-yard field from senior Steve Hill to edge East Grand Rapids 9-4.

The teams arrived for the crucial playoff game Friday night to find the field covered with ice, which turned the site into something resembling a skating rink instead of a gridiron and made traction near impossible.

"I'm glad we won and get to go to the Dome," Harrison coach John Herrington said, "but we'll never know how good East Grand Rapids is or how they might have done against us — and vice versa."

Conditions were so bad referee Joe Kavulich halted play between the first and second quarters and asked for an opinion from Michigan High School Athletic Association officials on whether or not to continue the game.

That resulted in a 20-minute delay, and the teams were sent to their locker rooms while state, game and school officials debated the issue.

Jack Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA, decided the game would continue since a better alternative site was not available.

Neither Herrington nor East coach George Barcheski wanted to play the game under such circumstances Friday.

"They won and let's leave it at that," Barcheski said. "We missed out on seeing a great quarterback (Bill Coleman of Harrison) and one helluva fullback (Brian Davis) on our team."

The Hawks, who are 12-0 and have won 25 consecutive games, will make their third straight appearance in the Pontiac Silverdome for the Class B championship game at 8 p.m. Saturday.

Defending champ Harrison can win back-to-back titles for the second time in this decade, having won Class B honors in 1981 and Class A the next year.

"We had a goal to get to the Dome," Harrison senior Joe George said, "and we'd like to win it for Steve."

The victory that sent the Hawks to the Dome for the fifth time in nine years might have been a costly one, however. Hill, who also plays swing-back and inside linebacker, suffered what was believed to be a broken leg after booting the winning field goal and being hit by East linebacker Jamie Dillo.

"Fortunately, Steve put it through the uprights," Herrington said, "and unfortunately it was his last high school kick."

"That could have happened in any game. I can't say the field caused the injury. I can't go that far."

On the slick surface, Harrison was forced to alter its approach and play a more conservative game than it normally does.

The Hawks passed only from the shotgun formation and ran out of the power-I most of the night, ramming the ball at East as George and Hill blocked for fullback Matt Conley, who carried 21 times for 73 yards. He also had a 7-yard scoring run nullified by a holding penalty late in the first half.

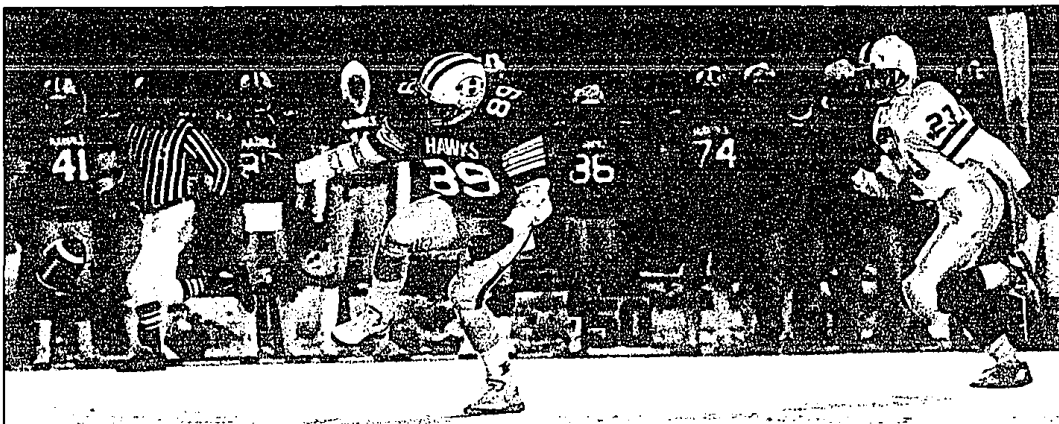
"(Conley) was slipping before he could get to the line," Coleman said, "but our line was doing a good job for the conditions, blowing them away and opening holes."

"It's a horrifying feeling to know you might as well throw out the offense you worked on all year," Herrington said. "We ran no sprintout, no bootleg, none of the things Hill does best."

Coleman attempted only 10 passes, completing two for 24 yards and having one intercepted. Ironically, Sam Middleton, quarterback for the run-oriented Pioneers, was more successful passing. He was 6-of-20 for 84 yards, most of it going to tight end Joe Treacy in the second half.

Middleton, however, had three interceptions — two by Scott Ratsons and one by George, who had daylight in front of him but was tackled by Middleton.

Ratsons made potential TD-saving stops with his pickoffs. After the first-half interruption, East controlled the ball for most of the second quarter and, with the help of a favorable spot and an offside the officials didn't call, drove for a first down at the Hawk 7-yard line with 1:35 remaining.



The slippery turf made passing difficult Friday night on the ice-covered artificial surface at Flint Atwood Stadium. The ball eludes the reach of Harrison's

Greg Piscopink on this play after he got behind East defender Matt Allard. The Hawks won the game 3-2 on Steve Hill's 32-yard field goal. Harrison will make

its third straight appearance and its fifth in nine years in the state finals Saturday in the Pontiac Silverdome.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

school officials debated the issue. Jack Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA, decided the game would continue since a better alternative site was not available.

Neither Herrington nor East coach George Barcheski wanted to

play the game under such circumstances Friday.

"They won and let's leave it at that," Barcheski said. "We missed out on seeing a great quarterback (Bill Coleman of Harrison) and one helluva fullback (Brian Davis) on our

team."

The Hawks, who are 12-0 and have won 25 consecutive games, will make their third straight appearance in the Pontiac Silverdome for the Class B championship game at 8 p.m. Saturday.

Defending champ Harrison can win back-to-back titles for the second time in this decade, having won Class B honors in 1981 and Class A the next year.

"We had a goal to get to the Dome," Harrison senior Joe George said, "and we'd like to win it for Steve."

The victory that sent the Hawks to the Dome for the fifth time in nine years might have been a costly one, however. Hill, who also plays swing-back and inside linebacker, suffered what was believed to be a broken leg after booting the winning field goal and being hit by East linebacker Jamie Dillo.

"Fortunately, Steve put it through the uprights," Herrington said, "and unfortunately it was his last high school kick."

"That could have happened in any game. I can't say the field caused the injury. I can't go that far."

On the slick surface, Harrison was forced to alter its approach and play a more conservative game than it normally does.

The Hawks passed only from the shotgun formation and ran out of the power-I most of the night, ramming the ball at East as George and Hill blocked for fullback Matt Conley, who carried 21 times for 73 yards. He also had a 7-yard scoring run nullified by a holding penalty late in the first half.

"(Conley) was slipping before he could get to the line," Coleman said, "but our line was doing a good job for the conditions, blowing them away and opening holes."

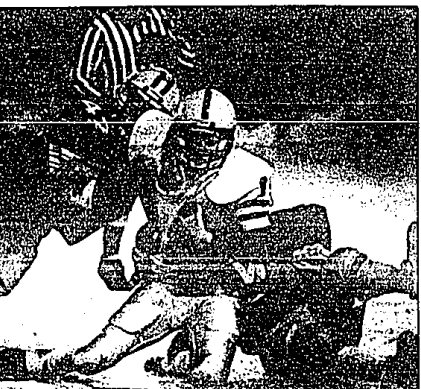
"It's a horrifying feeling to know you might as well throw out the offense you worked on all year," Herrington said. "We ran no sprintout, no bootleg, none of the things Hill does best."

Coleman attempted only 10 passes, completing two for 24 yards and having one intercepted. Ironically, Sam Middleton, quarterback for the run-oriented Pioneers, was more successful passing. He was 6-of-20 for 84 yards, most of it going to tight end Joe Treacy in the second half.

Middleton, however, had three interceptions — two by Scott Ratsons and one by George, who had daylight in front of him but was tackled by Middleton.

Ratsons made potential TD-saving stops with his pickoffs. After the first-half interruption, East controlled the ball for most of the second quarter and, with the help of a favorable spot and an offside the officials didn't call, drove for a first down at the Hawk 7-yard line with 1:35 remaining.

Middleton, however, had three interceptions — two by Scott Ratsons and one by George, who had daylight in front of him but was tackled by Middleton.



Harrison defenders Gary Devino (42) and Matt Sperry got to East quarterback Sam Middleton for a sack in the Class B semifinal game. Mid-

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

dleton passed for 94 yards, but the Pioneers never crossed the Harrison goal.

Mercy collects district title

By C.J. Rieck staff writer

Isn't it amazing? A coach can send a half-dozen scouts to check out an opponent, spend days formulating a plan of attack, then pound and preach that plan to his players at endless practice sessions — and what'll happen? Something totally unplanned.

Which, basically, is what happened at Friday's Class A girls basketball district final at North High School. Farmington Hills Mercy, no stranger to state tournament success, subdued a stubborn Walled Lake Western 50-40 to advance to the regional at Berkley High School.

The Marlins will battle Detroit Cass Tech in their regional semifinal at 6 p.m. Monday. The winner of that game advances to Wednesday's 7:30 p.m. final.

No one can fault Mercy coach Larry Baker for preparation. Moments after winning the district championship, he knew of Cass Tech's victory in the Highland Park district. "We had three guys scouting it," Baker said.

"WHICH IS why Mercy knew exactly what was necessary to beat Western. Control junior guard Holly Miller. She triggers their offense," Baker said. "We wanted as much pressure on her as possible. Their offense comes through her. We were very concerned about her penetration."

"Now, here's where it gets tricky. After all, there's a pretty good coach on the other bench, too. Bill St. John guided Western to a 15-7 record, and last year it was his Warriors that put Mercy out of the state tournament."

"We knew that," he said when questioned about Mercy's defensive plan for Miller. "I told Holly before the game she's not going to get 12 or 15 points but she would have 10 assists."

Miller did get 10 points, but largely was not a factor thanks to the defense of Jenny Clinton. Clinton played well at both ends of the floor, scoring nine points and dishing out 10 assists.

"IF YOU had told me we'd finish this game running our stack offense, which we haven't run in two months, I wouldn't have believed you," said Baker. The Marlins didn't have much choice, however, entering the final quarter, four key players had three personal fouls each.

"Inadvertently, it tested our bench," the Mercy coach said. "And our bench came through."

Of course, it certainly helped to have Clinton running the show and Joanne Stephens shooting holes in Western's defensive plans. The senior forward finished with a game-high 19 points. "The key thing was execution," said Baker. "Jenny and Joanne, our seniors, were deciding factors."

"True enough. Because if one factor wrecked Western's hopes, it was a lack of execution. St. John had his team well-prepared, too. Indeed, entering the final quarter he had to be pleased."

"We did just about everything we wanted," the Warriors' coach said. "We executed the offense, we handled their pressure, we had them in foul trouble. We just didn't hit our layups."

WESTERN WAS able to penetrate Mercy's defense, and the Warriors did an admirable job on the offensive boards. But they couldn't convert. What was worse, they failed to take advantage of the free throw opportunities awarded them when they were fouled on missed layups.

Western hit just four of eight from the line in the third quarter, and trailed by four — 33-29 — entering the fourth. For the game, the Warriors were 14 of 23 from the line (60.8 percent); Mercy made 10 of 14 (71.4 percent).

All of which spelled trouble for Western. The Marlins led 12-8 after one quarter and upped it to 25-19 at the half, but the fouls were mounting. Most factors favored the Warriors at the intermission, but they couldn't take advantage.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Jennifer Kiel was named to the All-Observer team for the second year in a row.

Veteran runners pace area squad

By Dan O'Meara staff writer

TWO VETERAN RUNNERS headline the 1989 All-Area Girls Cross Country Team, but youth is the hallmark of this year's 8-person squad.

Jennifer Kiel of Farmington and Lisa Rives of North Farmington drew most of the attention at the big meets this season, continuing a trend they began a year ago.

Each one concluded her high school career with an outstanding state-meet performance but will concede their prominent positions to a new set of up-and-coming runners next year.

Kiel, Rives and Livonia Stevenson's Tracy Clark are the only seniors on the team. The rest of the squad consists of two Juniors, three sophomores and two freshmen.

Runners who distinguished themselves this year and will be the leading ones to watch next fall are Tracey James and Lisa Mockeridge (Redford Union), Jennifer Derwinski (Farmington), Amy Smith (Plymouth Canton), Jennifer Ray and Wendy Proos (Walled Lake Western) and Erica Shepard (Redford Bishop Burgess).

Alexis, like Rives and Kiel, is a repeater on the first team. Clark and Derwinski were second-team picks last year.

ALL-AREA TEAM Jennifer Kiel, senior, Farmington; Kiel

all-area girls cross country

was third (19:03) in the Class A 30m race and was the first-place runner in all eight dual meets for the unbeaten Falcons.

She also was the W.L.A.A., regional and Oakland County champion with 19:28, 19:34 and 19:23 times, respectively. Kiel won the Redford Union and Schoolcraft Invitational, too.

"Jennifer takes running very seriously," coach John Barrett said. "She is a dedicated and determined athlete."

"Jennifer's tenacity and desire to achieve are admirable. As one of the team captains, she is an effective leader as well as a good teammate. She will be a great asset to my college team."

Lisa Rives, senior, N. Farmington: Rives won the state individual race with a career-best and school-record time of 18:45.31, the second fastest among all Class A runners.

Rives won the West Bloomfield and Walled Lake Western Invitational with 20:07 and 20:10 times, respectively. She was second in the Schoolcraft, Redford Union (19:22), county (19:29), conference (19:46) and regional (19:35) meets.

"Lisa has committed herself to being the best she can be," coach Bill Pineda said. "She has trained hard and, with the excellent season she had, was able to use the fruits of her hard work and dedication."

Please turn to Page 2