

Coleman sees MSU as right opportunity

By Dan O'Meara stalf writer

Mill Coleman suspected his mother was dropping hints when she bought a green sweater a week ago. "I knew what my mother was up to the whole time." Coleman said. "I still had to make the decision for myself."
Farmington Hills Harrison's All-American quarter-

Farmington Hills Harrison's All-American quarter-back ended what little suspense remained Wednesday afternoon when he verbally committed to Michigan State. Coleman, flanked by his parents, Millard Sr. and Gloree Coleman, and coach John Herrington at a press conference in the high school gymnasium, selected the Spartans over Michigan and Colorado — a choice his family supported and everyone expected.
"I wan't thinking about State when I bought the sweater." Gloree said, "but Mill smiled when I got It home and asked "Why did you buy that?" He never asked me, but that's where I wanted him to go."

WHILE HIS family let its preference be known in subtle ways, Coleman, a straight-A student who wants to study business, had his own reasons for choosing MSU.

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"It was a question of which program I thought I would fit into, and MSU offers the best apportunity for ne." said Coleman, who quickly donned an MSU baseball cap after making his announcement, which received a roar of approval from the couple hundred Harrison students who packed the gym.

"They do a lot of things I've done throughout my high school caters. They like their quarterback to sprint out, and they have all all-round great program."

Coleman's choice of MSU was a surprise to no one especially since he attended its summer football camp since the eighth grade and is most familiar with that program — but least of all Herrington.
"I could have told you that when he came here," Herrington said. "He wanted to go somewhere he felt curnfortable, where he knew the coaches and they would give him a chance to play quarterback at his size."

The question now is whether Coleman is big enough to play quarterback in the Big 10. His detractors say the 5-tool-9, 165-pound Coleman is too small.

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"THAT'S somebody who hasn't seen him play," Herrington said. "If you've seen him play, you know he's a

and I think he'll be an outstanding Big Ten quarter-back.

Coleman, who was Harrison's starting quarterback for three years after his family moved from Ablon, passed for 7.464 yards, making him the career passing leader in Michigan high school history.

MSI quarterback Dan Enough Starting a scalor next fall, NSI quarterback to an Enough Starting a scalor next fall, to passed to the starting of the scale of the scale of the Eyde (East Lanshig) and lim Miller (Waterford).

Coleman, however, is the only quarterback among 16 scalors who have given MSI verbal commitments this year. Nothing is blinding until Wednesday, Feb. 14, the first day high school players can sign national letters of intent.

"So far pone of the other quarterbacks have seen ac-tion, either." Coleman said. "After (Enos) completes his senior year, the field will be wide open, and all I want is a shot at it."

Coleman, who led the Hawks to back-to-back Class B titles, is eager to disprove those who say he's too small.

"I ALWAYS felt I could play in the Big 10," he said.
"If I let that bother me, I wouldn't have been able to excel like I have.

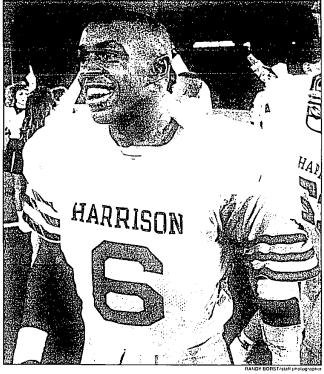
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Coleman follows former Harrison great John Miller to MSU, but he said Miller, though he talked to him about it, didn't ry to sway his decision.

Coleman's family members, on the other hand, dissome polliticking on behalf of the Spartans, hoping to be close enough to follow Mill's college career. Coleman won't be alone at MSU, ether. His slater, Gina, plans to transfer from Oakland Community College.
"I'm very elated he chose to stay in Milchigan," sald Millard Sr., who attended MSU in 1865-66 before he was drafted into the U.S. Army. "I always felt he fill into Michigan State's style of offense.
We did a lot to the lings, like buying State shirts and hats. It was his decision, but we wanted to let him know where we stood."

And everybody knows where Coleman stands, too. "If ce'd a big sigh of relief," he said. "Now nobody will come up to me and say 'Mill, where you going?' Now they know."



Mill Coleman announced he will play college football at Michigan State, giving a verbal commitment to the Spartans during a well-attend-

volleyball

ed press conference Wednesday afternoon at Harrison High School.



Suzie Atchinson passes the ball for Mercy while teammate Andrea Vellhoven shows a keen interest in its destiny Monday The Marlins defeated Ladywood in three games.

Power play Mercy gains advantage in rivalry

In recent years, the advantage has belonged to Livonia Ladywood in its volleyball series with Catholic League rival Farmington Hills Mercy.
But the balance of power has shifted this year. The Marlins emphasized that point Monday night by defeating two-time defending state champion Livonia Ladywood a second time, 15-12, 13-15, 15-3, at Mercy.
"They do definitely have the edge," Ladywood coach Tom Teeters said, "They've outplayed us twice now."

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The No. 2-ranked Blazers (19-4) won five of six matches with Mercy the last two years, so senior Jennifer Goff and her tearmastes are relishing the No. 6 Marlins' elevated status.

"It's always been a struggle, Ladywood has always cast a shadow on us," Goff said. "This is such a big win and an incredible feeling to beat a team like that. Mr Teeters is a great coach, and their reputation says it all."

GOFF, AN outside hitter, slammed half of her 12 kills in the third game, including the gamewinner, as the Marlins rallied from a second-

The edge went to the Blazers in the second game, which featured an unsuccessful rally by Mercy.

WITH THE game tied 12-12. Ladywood scored two of the last three points on Mercy hitting er-rors and a Rebecca Willey kill.

But attacking miscues were Ladywood's down-fall in this match, according to Teeters, who counted 23 such mistakes by the Blazers.

"That's way too many for us," he said. "We're usually in the eight to 12 range. At the same time, Mercy accounted for some of those and forced their upon us."

Teeters added the Ladywood mistakes in the second game indicated an ominous trend that continued into the finale.

"(The errors) made it closer than it should have been," he said. "We let them back in, and that turned things around and carried over to the third game.

"Even though you don't win the game, those momentum boosts can come into play down the line."

Harrison wins 5th straight

Andy Smith scored a game-high 23 points and pulled down 11 rebounds Tuesday, sparking Farmington Hills Harrison to a 62-52 victory over visiting Livonia Charchill. The Hawks improve their record to 8-3 overall and 4-1 in the Western Division. The Chargers are 6-4, Despite trailing 26-25 at halltime. Harrison rebounded and outscored Churchill 18-11 in the third quarter and 19-15 in the final quarter.

Churchill 18-11 in the third quarter and 19-15 in the final quarter. Senior forward Rob Karbowski chipped in 22 points for the Hawks, while grabbing seven rebounds. Junior forward Mike Thomas paced the Chargers with 12 points. Mike Juodawikis added 11 and Randy Calcaterra 10.

Harrison converted 14 of 19 free

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Harrison converted throws.

"We executed better in the third quarter." Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "We may have come in overlooking Churchill, but Fli tell you they played a heckuva game."

N. FARMINGTON 62, JOHN GLENN 59: North Farmington im-

basketball

proved lis record to 7-4 overall and 4-1 in the Lakes Division Tuesday by edging visiting Westland John Gleen. The Ralders trailed 30-2 at half-time, but rebounded in the second half, outscoring the flockets 20-13 in the third quarter and 20-16 in the courth quarter.

Senior guard Matt Hoffman poured in a game-high 26 points. Chris White added 13 and Eric Detter II.

Gamal Ahrned and Mike Trussich. Genach secred 15 points for Glenn (6-4, 2-4).

SALEM 73, FARMINGTON 49: Salem kept its Lakes Division-lead-ing record unbiemished with a con-vincing, 73-49 victory over the Fal-cons in WLAA action Tuesday. The host Rocks led by 11 points after one quarter and increased their lead to 18 at the half, 43-25. Salem extended that to 68-34 after three

quarters.
Salem, 10-1 and 5-0, was paced by forward Jake Baker with 12 points, and Tom Noonan and Hyan Johnson scored 11 apiece.
The Falcons, 4-7 and 2-2, were led by P-J. Green's 15-point performance.

CLARENCEVILLE 72, LUTHER-AN NORTH 69: Derrick Herr's three-pointer at the buzzer proved to be the difference Tuesday, as Livo-nia Clarenceville defeated Mount Clemens Lutheran North in a Metro

in Carteneovine outsteam North in a Metro Conference game. Let the the offers captured a 5-3 at half-let the beneficial control of the following septimed a 5-50 lead after three quarters on route to the triumph. Junior guard Kendrick Harrington eld the Trojans with 23 points and 10 steals. Dan Nunnery added 12 points and Chils Foss 11.

Don Wengler scored 22 points for Lutheran North. Clarenceville converted 21 of 27 free throws, a season best. The Trojans are now 2-10 overall and 1-6 in the Metro Conference.

North falls to 2-9, 1-5.

