

Falcons run into Temple of doom, 34-6

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Mark Temple's in, Chris White is out, and somewhere in-between now and November we'll know what the change means to the North Farmington football team.

Temple, starting at quarterback in place of White, made a big first impression Friday against visiting Farmington. A junior, Temple completed 13-of-24 passes for 217 yards and three touchdowns, leading the Raiders to an easy 34-6 win.

White, who started the first four games at quarterback, was moved to one of the wide receiver positions opposite Dave Rankin. The Raiders also used a double tight-end set with Todd Pawlowski and Brian Lee, and lined up only one set back — a variation of the run 'n shoot offense made famous in these parts by the Detroit Lions.

"It's really a lot like the (Lions) 'Silver Stretch,'" said North coach Jim O'Leary. "But we just call it the 'Brown Streak.' When we put White out at a receiver position, Rankin on the other side and Pawlowski in the middle, who are you going to cover? The strength of our team is our receivers. We have five or six guys who can catch the ball."

"Temple has a great arm. He and Chris (White) are equal in passing, that's why we put White at receiver."

TEMPLE IS LIKELY to get the nod the rest of the way as signal caller, and how could he not, considering the way he dissected the Falcons' defense secondary? Temple threw three touchdown passes of 33 and 32 yards to Rankin and one from 53 yards out to Pawlowski.

North also scored on a 2-yard run by Matt Mummert, and on field goals from 25 and 40 yards out by senior Mike Ober. It was a convincing victory for the Raiders, who improved to 3-2 overall, and 2-1 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

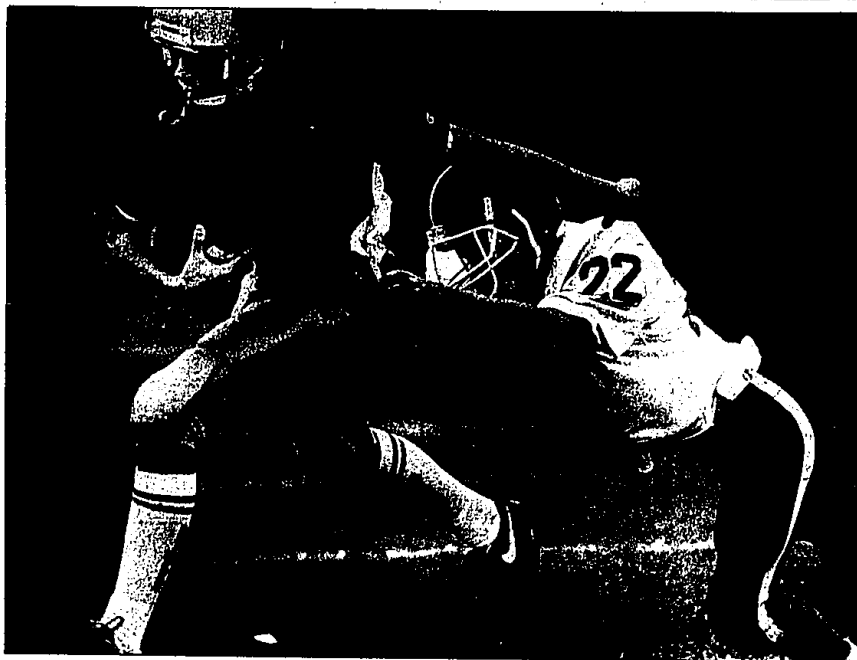
"The coaches have shown confidence in me that I can do the job, and it feels good," said Temple. "After an outing like this I've got to be (No. 1). We put in a new offense and who are you going to double cover? I just look up, and if they're double-teaming one guy, I audible to the other."

Farmington, which opened the game with a 93-yard kick-off return for a TD, suffered its fifth loss without a win, and fell to 0-5 in the Lakes Division. Chris Marting scored Farmington's only TD on an end-around hand-off from teammate Joe Goudeseune, but it was one of the few bright spots for the Falcons.

Farmington gained 199 yards in total offense, including 130 through the air, but couldn't score from scrimmage against the Raiders. Brandon Cagnon and Marting led Farmington's rushing attack with 39 and 31 yards, respectively.

"We've led from the start almost every game, but we're not mentally tough enough to maintain it," Farmington coach Bernie Call said. "Until we get an offense that's strong enough to hold the ball we're not going to do it. We prepare for games and if the opponent does any different than what we expect we can't make any adjustments."

"IF WE TRY to vary one iota from our game plan, we're dead. But our kids don't quit and they'll make it in life just because of that."



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

North quarterback Mark Temple made his first start a memorable one, tossing three touchdowns in the Raiders' win over Farmington.

Call said he expected Temple to start at quarterback, but even so, the Falcons had trouble solving North's offense. After falling behind, 6-0, the Raiders scored on three of their next four possessions in opening up a 17-6 halftime lead.

North's defense was instrumental in setting up the Raiders' first score.

After Farmington quarterback David Link fumbled a potential handoff, North's Mike Hamill recovered the ball at the Falcons 9-yard line. North couldn't push the ball over the goal line, but Ober, who made all four of his extra point attempts, connected from 25 yards out to decrease the deficit to 6-3.

After forcing a Farmington punt, North took the ball late in the first quarter and marched 55 yards for its first TD — a 25-yard pass on first down to Rankin in the corner of the end zone. Ober's extra point with 11:01 left in the half gave the Raiders the lead for good, 10-6.

A North drive later in the quarter

was stalled when Farmington's Dave Phillips stripped Mummert of the ball in Falcons territory. But the Raiders struck again before halftime, when Temple hit Pawlowski over the middle and the burly tight end outraced a Farmington player

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Golfers conquer 3 duals

Farmington High won three boys golf matches last week, including Thursday's 191-245 win over Walled Lake Central at Edgewood Country Club.

Five Farmington golfers broke 40, led by Chris Zbanec, who took medalist honors with a nine-hole total of 37. Jason Buhn and Pete Truac each carded 38s and Adam Hibbs scored 39, along with Brian Link.

Tim Williams led Central with a 40.

In a match played Wednesday against Westland John Glenn at San Marino, Farmington registered a new record score of 190. Glenn finished with a 222.

Hibbs shot a one-under par 35. Farmington outduelled Livonia Franklin, 209-246, Tuesday at Iyde Wyld. Hibbs and Buhn each had nine-hole totals of 40.

STEVENSON 224, PLYMOUTH SALEM 224: Mark Peterson had a 38 Thursday to lead Livonia Stevenson against Plymouth Salem in a Western Lakes Activities Association Lakes Division match at Brae Burn Golf Course.

Ryan Gusick had a 45, Pete Theophelis, 46, and Ryan Fawkes, 44, for the Spartans, who are 8-1 overall.

In a match played Wednesday, Peterson's nine-hole total of 39 led Livonia Stevenson to a 209-225 Lakes Division win over North Farmington at Whispering Willows.

Theophelis, Gusick and Dan LaVoe each tallied 43 for the Spartans and Fawkes recorded a 44. For North, Rick Henz had a 41, followed by Eric Wilson, 42, and Dan Stein, 44.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Adam Hibbs lines up a putt for Farmington. Hibbs carded a 39 in a win over Walled Lake Central Thursday.

Close shave Late scores lift Harrison

By C.J. Risak
staff writer

For three quarters of Friday's game against Northville, it seemed all Farmington Harrison's football team had going for it was tradition.

Maybe that was enough. Trailing 7-0, the Hawks mounted two long scoring drives in the final period to subdue the stubborn Mustangs 14-7 at Harrison.

The victory in this Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division showdown gave the Hawks a 3-0 division record. They are 4-1 overall. Northville lost for the first time this season, but the 4-1 Mustangs are 2-1 in the division.

Nothing's come easily for Harrison this season. "You better believe it," agreed Hawks' coach John Herrington. Indeed, Northville showed little respect for tradition in the first half.

The Mustangs surrendered just 96 first-half yards. Quarterback Ryan Huzjak and receiver-defensive back Mark Hillinger were Harrison's biggest nemesis. Huzjak completed seven-of-nine passes for 107 yards in the first half. Hillinger caught four passes, two from each team.

HIS BIGGEST catch came on a first-down play from the Northville 42. A play-action fake froze Hawk cornerback Greg Piscioplak and Hillinger streaked down the sideline uncovered. Huzjak hit him at about the Harrison 20 and he went in unopposed for the game's first score. Todd Pietl's placement made it 7-0.

The Hawks never got untracked offensively in the first half. Quarterback Plamen Magdevski completed just four-of-15 passes for 50 yards, and was picked off twice by Hillinger. Running back Gary Devine was limited to 24 rushing yards.

It was apparent Northville was trying to take away Devine's running. The strategy worked — at least for a while. "All until we needed it," said Mustang coach Daryl Schumacher.

A few offensive adjustments for the second half paid off nicely for both Harrison and Devine. The Hawks started attacking the middle of the Northville defensive line, with fullback Mike Pesci banging up the middle. He found some daylight, gaining 56 yards on eight second-half carries.

"That's about the only thing we did (differently in the second half), we had the fullback more," said Herrington. "We had a tighter formation, and went outside more."

PESCI'S GAINS set up Harrison's first real scoring opportunity. The Hawks drove from their own 43 to the Northville 8-yard line, where they had a first-down-and-goal. But the drive fell apart there, with an illegal block by Pesci, a short completion and two incomplete passes.

The Hawks couldn't even get off a 32-yard field goal try. Magdevski failed to handle the snap, allowing Northville to take over on downs at the 18.

football

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— Daryl Schumacher
Northville coach

Huzjak had been successful throwing to a variety of receivers running mostly short pass routes in the first half; in the second half, nothing worked. Huzjak's first two passes were intercepted, by Roy Granger and Pesci.

It was an omen of what was to come. Huzjak hit just one-of-five second-half passes, and that lost two yards. Northville's ground game was hardly better, grinding out only two first downs in the final two quarters and managing a mere 24 yards on 34 attempts in the game.

Harrison finally got going offensively with 11:10 left in the game, driving 63 yards in 10 plays — eight of them runs by Devine. The diminutive (5-foot-6, 155 pounds) senior accounted for 53 of the yards, including the final three that, with Mark Lebovich's placement, tied the score at 7-all with 7:04 left.

NORTHVILLE'S ENSUING possession was familiar: two runs that gained five yards, a pass completion that lost two and a punt. Harrison took over at its 28 with 4:38 remaining.

Three Devine runs (for 12, 5 and 8 yards) mixed with two Pesci snaps (for 6 and 3) gave Harrison a first down at the Northville 39. Devine took the next handoff and raced around left end, broke a couple of tackles and scampered into the end zone for the go-ahead TD with 3:11 left.

"They started running at us and we couldn't handle it," said Schumacher. "But I've got to hand it to 42 (Devine), he was running hard."

Added Herrington: "It wasn't pretty, but it got the job done."

Devine finished with 156 yards rushing on 24 attempts. Magdevski's passing, though, was off-target. He hit only five-of-17 for 54 yards. "We just haven't been throwing the ball well lately," said Herrington.

Still, the Hawks keep winning, thanks in great part to a strong defense, led by Blazo Sarceovich (13 tackles against Northville) and Tony Schalteb (nine tackles). And as Herrington concluded: "I'd rather look (lousy) and win than look good and lose."