

Raiders thrown for loss, 34-9

By Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Everybody knows what Plymouth Canton's offense is capable of doing.

The Chiefs demonstrated their proficiency again Friday night, rolling over visiting North Farmington 34-9 and running their season record to 4-1.

Almost overlooked is the defense, which has quietly done its job while operating in the shadow of offense averaging 31.6 points a game.

At the defensive unit had a leading role in Canton's latest victory, helping get the Chiefs started with a 10-3 lead in the first quarter. The final tally had Canton holding North's first-team offense to zero yards rushing and 67 passing.

It's the defense that wins games, and it's the offense that guarantees the win," said Canton linebacker Liam Rentz, who had a fumble recovery and an interception.

THE DEFENSE is kinda underrated. People say the defense doesn't work hard enough. But we got good players who don't get down on the selves and keep hitting hard."

Canton's defense, allowing just 11 points per game, jumped on the Raiders (4-4) right away.

The Chiefs downed a punt at the North 5-yard line and Canton end Mark Meszaros dropped North tailback Matt Mummert in the end zone for a safety on first down.

The Raiders forced another punt but fumbled, and Rentz recovered at the North 24. Karl Wukie ran 33 yards for the first of two rushing touchdowns, and he passed to Jason Riggs for the conversion and a 10-0 lead.

North went to the air, throwing six straight

plays and marching to the Canton 6. But the Chiefs stopped the drive there, and the Raiders settled for Mike Ober's 23-yard field goal.

"Our defense did a good job," said Canton coach Bob Kheonle, who admits to being a perfectionist. "They're improving and getting better."

"I guess I'm just a stickler for that. I'd like to see the kids play harder. I like to see them get better and better each week. Maybe I expect too much, but that's OK, too."

AFTER HOLDING the Raiders to a field goal — their only points until reserve back Jack Wilks ran 66 yards for a touchdown with 23 seconds left — Canton had a 14-play, 80-yard scoring drive that, all agreed, was pivotal in deciding the outcome.

Wukie ran 4 yards for his second TD at 7:35 in the second quarter, and the 17-3 lead held up through halftime.

The Chiefs came up with another defensive stand late in the half. Dave Rankin recovered a Canton fumble at the Canton 28, but the Chiefs held on fourth-and-11 at their 16.

"We had a great night," Canton's other linebacker, Josh Walasky, said of the defense. "Liam was great. He was totally awesome. It helps to have the defensive line like we have, doing their jobs right."

"What really set the tone was Meszaros and the safety. He got in there and put the guy down — and got everybody going."

The Chiefs finished off North by scoring on their first three possessions of the second half and building a 34-3 lead early in the fourth quarter.

THE FIRST drive resulted in Jeff Nafe's 30-yard field goal. Later a good punt return by Mike Wougamon gave Canton the ball at the North 32,

and Wougamon, after a lateral pass from Wukie, passed 20 yards to Brett Howell for a TD.

The Chiefs converted Rentz' interception into another score. A holding penalty nullified a 21-yard TD run by Chris James, but Wougamon ran 11 yards for the team's final score four plays later.

"We were concerned about North Farmington," Kheonle said. "They have a good team, and if you lose one it's hard to climb over that."

With the win, Canton continues its pursuit of a playoff berth. As was the case last year, the season finale between the Chiefs and Plymouth Salem (6-2) will have a bearing on post-season play for both teams.

"It's going to come down to the last game like last year," Kheonle said. "It'll be a helluva game. It will be an emotional game as it is. Plus all the other stuff added to it is going to make it something else."

Wukie finished 8-of-15 passing for 63 yards. The Chiefs piled up 238 of their 319 yards on the ground. James rushed for 58 yards on 13 carries. Riggs had 15 and Wukie 36 on six sprints. Riggs and Howell caught three passes apiece.

ALL OF NORTH's plus-77 rushing yards came on its last series. Quarterback Mark Temple completed seven of 20 passes for 57 yards.

"We just didn't establish anything," North coach Jim O'Leary said. "Our kids didn't quit, but we just didn't play very good football."

"We couldn't dictate what we wanted to do. We were forced to throw the ball. They're a good football team; they're not as good as John Glenn, but they do things well and we didn't take advantage of what was there."

Falcons finish 3rd

Farmington finished third in Lakes Division boys cross country after defeating host Walled Lake Central 25-33.

The Falcons ended the dual-meet season 3-2 in the division and 6-3 overall. Livonia Stevenson won the Lakes title, and Plymouth Salem was second.

Farmington and the Vikings alternated runners until the Falcons won the meet by taking the Nos. 7-9 places at Richardson Center Park.

Central's Tabitha Belcher was first (20:18), Angie Acree fourth (20:59) and Sherri Howard sixth (21:41).

Farmington's Allison Davis finished second (20:51), Jenny Derwinski third (20:53) and Cheryl Casaroli fifth (21:04).

The Falcons nailed down the win when Sherri Villato came in seventh (21:34). Gretchen Clappison eighth (21:42) and Jodi Van Ord ninth (21:45).

PLYMOUTH SALEM capped a fine Lakes Division season Thursday with a 25-37 win over North Farmington at Oakland Community College.

The Salem girls finished second to Stevenson in the division with a 4-1 record and stand 4-2 overall. The Raiders are 1-4 and 5-5.

"We're a contender (for the conference title) and we should be in the top four or five teams easy," Salem coach Mike Krafchak said. "We've got everybody healthy, so we should have a shot at it."

North's Jenny Web captured first place in 21:44, but the Raiders filled six of the next seven places.

Stacey Whitthoff was second (21:57), Corey Gulekewich third (22:00), Emily Farrell fifth (22:38), Beth Turomaba sixth (22:39), Kelly Morante seventh (22:37) and Julie Cutting eighth (22:53).

Tracy Mitchell and Carolyn Atto placed fourth and ninth, respectively, for North. Mitchell ran 22:03 and Atto 22:27. Salem's Jill Czaplinski rounded out the top 10 with a 23:45 time.

North's scores included Alicia Crossland, who was 11th overall (24:02), and Lisa Biederman, 13th at 25:08.

Goba paces Farmington

Farmington senior Ben Goba posted a 16:46 time Thursday to lead the Falcons to victory in their final boys cross country dual meet.

The team finishes 3-2 in the Lakes Division and 6-3 overall after beating host Walled Lake Central 21-37.

Farmington's Dave Cilnrad was second (17:47), but the Falcons conceded the next two places to the Vikings. Central's Jacob Calcutti was third (18:07) and Kirk Black fourth (18:10).

But the Falcons captured the next three places to tie the race.

Farmington's Jon Duff was fifth (18:34), John Lane sixth (18:53) and Pat O'Dell seventh (19:10). Teammate Mark Scanio was ninth (19:21).

PLYMOUTH SALEM is becoming the perennial power in Lakes Division boys cross country.

The Rocks captured their second straight dual-meet championship Thursday when they finished an unbe-

en division season (5-0) with a 15-49 rout of North Farmington.

"It's a nice honor, but it's just a start," Salem coach Geoff Baker said. "We still have the big three (meets) coming up. We're tuning up for the big ones."

Salem will be among the contenders Wednesday in the Western Lakes Activities Association meet at Cass Benton Park. The boys race begins at 6:30 p.m.

Following that are the regional and state meets.

Salem runners claimed the top six places Thursday at Oakland Community College and seven of the top eight.

John Thomas led the Rocks with a winning time of 17:32. Steve Boudreau was second (18:07), Derek Cudini third (18:12), Andy Hallman fourth (18:19), Mike Patterson fifth (18:20) and Jayson McDonald sixth (18:46). Teammate Matt Erickson was eighth (19:17).

North runners in the top 10 included Jon Sautarski, who was seventh at 19:06, Josh Chittis, ninth at 19:33, and Spencer Turlet, 10th at 19:34.

Salem is 3-1 overall in dual meets, the Raiders 3-2 in the division.

The week ahead

PREP FOOTBALL	
Friday, Oct. 26	Huron Valley at A.P. Inter-City, 6 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 25	Coreneville at Livonia North, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 24	Liv. Church at Plymouth Canton, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 23	Liv. Western at Liv. Franklin, 7 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 22	Liv. Stevenson at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 21	Westland Glen at Farmington, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 20	Farm. Harrison at Northville, 7 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 19	Garden City at Don. Edsel Ford, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 18	Red. Thurston at Allen Park, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 17	Wayne Memorial at Lincoln Park, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 16	Phy. Christian at A.P. Inter-City, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 15	Oak. Christian at Liv. Western, 8 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 14	Macomb Christian at Huron Valley, 8:30 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER	
Wednesday, Oct. 24	Schockcraft at Univ. of Michigan, 4 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER	
Wednesday, Oct. 24	Oakland Univ. at Schockcraft, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 23	Macomb CC at Schockcraft, 7 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 22	Western Ontario at Madonna, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 21	Delta CC at Schockcraft, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 20	Univ. of Windsor at Madonna, 7 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 19	Schockcraft at Calvin College, TBA
Thursday, Oct. 18	TBA — time to be announced
GIRLS BASKETBALL	
Monday, Oct. 22	Livonia Wood vs. Harper West, Regina
Sunday, Oct. 21	West Catholic Central, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 23	Westland at G.P. Light, 5 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 22	Wayne Woods at Coreneville, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 21	Wayne at Wayne Memorial, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 20	Edsel Ford at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 19	Westland at Liv. Church, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 18	Phy. Christian at Liv. Franklin, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 17	Liv. Stevenson at Farm. Harrison, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 16	Wayne at W.L. Western, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 15	Wayne at Garden City, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 14	Wayne at Red. Thurston, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 13	Wayne at St. Agatha, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 12	Wayne at Bishop Gorman, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 11	Wayne at Dbn. Divine Child, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 10	Wayne at Warren Bathesda, 7:30 p.m.

Mercy prevails over Flint team

Farmington Hills Mercy improved its overall record to 11-4 Thursday by defeating visiting Flint Southwestern 55-41 in a non-conference matchup.

Senior guard Suede Atchison came off the bench to score a game-high 17 points for the Marlinas, 15 of which came in the second half.

Junior guard Kendra Ford paced the Knights, who are just the opposite at 4-1, with 15 points.

Mercy led 18-13 at halftime and outscored Southwestern 20-9 in the third quarter.

FARMINGTON HILLS Harrison fell just short of the mark Thursday at home, losing to Livonia Churchill 45-41 in a W.L.A.A. clash.

The Hawks led 29-33 after three quarters, but the Chargers outscored Harrison 12-2 in the fourth quarter to gain the victory.

Alyssa Belaire and Chrissy Daly each had 14 points for Churchill, 4 p.m.

The Hawks led 29-33 after three quarters, but the Chargers outscored Harrison 12-2 in the fourth quarter to gain the victory.

Andrea Najarian tallied 15 points to lead Harrison, and Heather Hopkins added 12 points.

PLYMOUTH SALEM, behind 18 points from sophomore forward Yolanda Jackson, defeated visiting Farmington Thursday in a Western Lakes Activities Association girls basketball game.

Salem is 13-2 overall and a perfect 9-0 in the W.L.A.A. The Falcons are 2-13 and 1-8.

The Rocks also received offensive contributions from junior center Darle Miller, who chipped in 16 points, and senior guard Sarah Ruteo, who added 10 points.

Kim Owczarszak scored nine points in a losing cause for Farmington.

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