

Sports

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North gridders commits to N'western



Todd Pawloski will play for Wildcats

By Steve Kowalski staff writer
With the signing date only nine days away, Observers football stars have begun to make early college commitments. North Farmington's 6-foot-4, 245-pound lineman Todd Pawloski has verbally committed to Northwestern and Redford Catholic Central's 6-4, 230-pound tight end Mike Grimes said he will attend Central Michigan University.

and plans on majoring in engineering. OTHER two schools (MSU and Illinois) are good too, but at Northwestern I won't be the only one working hard on my grades," said Pawloski, who caught eight passes for 165 yards and two touchdowns and recorded 67 tackles as a senior. "All the kids at Northwestern do real well in the school and on the field. I said before my senior season that I wanted to get an engineering degree and I wanted to use football to get a free education. "I didn't get much sleep in the last week. There was a lot of thinking that had to go into it (the decision). My parents told me between the three schools I couldn't make a bad decision. They supported me in what I did." As for switching to defensive line, Pawloski said, "It doesn't bother me. I sit people from either side of the line."

football

Grimes, meanwhile, didn't get much recognition playing for CC, the Class AA state champion. But he is thought of as a "sleeper" because of his 4.7 speed in the 40-yard dash and his blocking ability. Grimes, who caught less than 10 passes in CC's run-oriented attack, selected Central over the Air Force Academy and the University of Virginia. The Cavaliers, of the Atlantic Coast Conference, showed late interest in Grimes as an offensive guard, but Grimes wasn't interested in switching positions. CENTRAL, THE defending Mid-American Conference champion, was in need of a tight end, and Grimes was high on the Chippewas' list of recruits.

Grimes was impressed with the Academy, but said he wasn't sure he was willing to commit five years of military service following graduation. He told CMU assistant coach Dick Flynn of his decision Wednesday or Thursday night. "Coach Flynn said he had to jump up and down for a second (upon hearing the decision)," Grimes said. "He said I made his day. They were really impressed with my blocking ability and said I definitely have a chance to play early (instead of getting red-shirted). (Head coach) Herb Deromedi is a good coach and very stable. He seems like a coach you can talk to. "At Central, I can get a good education and it has everything I wanted. We didn't throw much at CC because we didn't need to and I can't complain because we won a championship. But I'll catch it when it comes and I'll run over people. Just give it to me."

Grimes also was impressed with CMU's non-league schedule, which includes trips to Michigan State the next two years and the University of Kentucky in 1992. In other recruiting news, CC safety Mike Thomas said he'll choose today or Tuesday between the University of Michigan and Michigan State. Thomas' teammate, Brian Chaney, is leaning toward Eastern Michigan University, where his brother Perry plays. Brian Chaney was scheduled to visit Eastern over the weekend and has visited Toledo, CMU and Bowling Green. Chaney said he talked to the Toledo coaching staff "about 10 times" a Thursday night over the telephone while EMU coach Jim Harkema was at his house recruiting him. "Harkema was here and they knew he was here, but they (the Toledo coaches) didn't see me." Please turn to Page 2

Fight to finish ends in loss for Falcons

By Dan O'Meara staff writer

Plymouth Salem and Farmington produced the kind of climactic ending you'd expect from a match between two of the area's foremost wrestling powers. The outcome hinged on the final bout Thursday, and Salem heavyweight Ken Coker's first-period pin gave the Rocks a 33-26 victory at Farmington. "He's been hurt all year and it hurts when he wrestles," Salem coach Ron Krueger said, "but I told him if you don't feel good about wrestling that one, you're never going to feel good." He was smiling from ear to ear after that match. "The Rocks improved to 3-0 in Western Lakes Activities Association dual meets and 4-0 in the Lakes Division. Farmington is 11-7 and 2-2. Trailing 27-26 and having a chance to win the match, the Falcons, who don't have a regular heavyweight, moved 189-pound Matt Siskosky up a weight to challenge the 6-foot-1, 225-pound Coker, who pinned his opponent in 1:55. "WE COULD easily have won it as fast as," Farmington coach Al Bezar said, "but it didn't work out that way. We had a shot at winning it by moving our 89-pounder up and we went for it." Bezar also moved one of two good 171-pounders, Ryan Adams, to 189 in place of Siskosky, and he produced a 7-3 decision over Wade Langton to get the Falcons with a point. "I knew it would come down to the end," Bezar said. "I was hoping we

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could void (at heavyweight) and not even have to wrestle. Hopefully, you get things taken care of before it gets that far. But if not you have to go that way." Farmington, while having a fine season, has been somewhat of a hard-luck team, losing a dual meet to Westland John Glenn the same way. The Falcons were behind 26-24 entering the final bout but lost it and the match, 32-24. "We've been missing a heavyweight here for a number of years, and it seems to have hurt us," Bezar said. Salem won the first three bouts — two by pin and one by technical fall — to build a 17-0 lead, but Farmington won six of the next nine to make the score 27-25. BUT THE Rocks wrestled well at weights in which they were the underdogs and prevented Farmington taking greater victories and scoring more points. "The kids wrestled very well," Krueger said. "We wrestled some good kids from Farmington and didn't give up the fall. I can't say enough about everyone." "Even though Dan Phillips got technical, he saved us a point. That point was important because we got down to heavyweight, and that gave us the point," Krueger said. "I knew it would come down to the end," Bezar said. "I was hoping we

could afford to be patient instead." Brian Link (130) was the first Farmington wrestler to score a first-period point and was ahead of Phillips 16-0 at the end of the second. Farmington's Chris Kresl (152) won a 4-2 decision over Rob Hansen, who helped Salem in defeat by keeping the score close. Farmington's Steve Walter (171) defeated Phil Haynes 12-1, and Adams (169) won a 7-3 decision over Wade Langton. The Falcons had to settle for a combined seven points in those bouts when the Salem wrestlers refused to give up any additional points (or pin) in the third period of each contest. "At that point, I knew we still had to win the last match, so getting pins there really didn't matter," Bezar said. "I thought we could have had more pins, but they did a real good job staying off their backs." KRUEGER SAID he anticipated Farmington pinning as many as five or six of his wrestlers but was pleased his team gave up only one pin. And that didn't meet the standards for a pin, he added. Jon Duff pinned Salem's Chad Wilson with one second left in their 125-pound bout and scored his team's first points, 17-6. Wilson had dominated the contest and was ahead on points 11-3 when his momentum carried him over Duff's back and was rolled onto his back. "Chad got caught in the fastest pin I ever saw," Krueger said. "That one left a bad taste. With that one, we're still in a hole." He couldn't have been on his back for a second, and the count is sup-



Rob Sutton of Farmington tries to escape from Thursday night. Martin eventually won the Salem's Scott Martin in their 112-pound bout match with a technical fall, 19-2.

posed to be 1:001, 1:002. He didn't get the same consistency (from the official). Salem started the match with John Moran (193), pinning Brian Beattie in 2:47. Scott Martin (112) winning by technical fall over Rob Sutton, 19-2, and Dan Bonnett (119) pinning John Lowe in 1:02. Duff's pin and Link's technical fall made the score 17-11. The teams traded victories at the next four weights. Salem's Jeff Shumate (135) nearly pinned Steve Lemieux in the last 10 seconds and won an 11-1 decision, Farmington's David Link (140) de-

feated Jeff Coteman 6-3, Salem's Josh Visa (145) downed Dave Monge 11-1 and Kresl (152) edged Hansen. The exchange left the Rocks with a 25-17 lead. "I WAS REALLY delighted overall," Krueger said. "The only thing is we gotta turn around and go to John Glenn next Thursday. But I want to compliment the Farmington team. Their kids have been doing very well all year." Salem's Charlie Apigian and Farmington's Mike Pappo fought to a 3-3 draw at 160 pounds, leaving the Rocks with an eight-point lead. Apigian wrestled at 171 earlier in the season but has certified at 160 for the tournaments. "Apigian won the Lansing Everett tournament last weekend, so I'd have to say that was an upset for us," Bezar said. The Falcons closed to 27-26 with Walker's four-point decision and Adams' three-point victory at the next two weights. "We still have a good chance at the conference," Bezar said. "There's a lot of parity there, and I don't think anybody has a clear-cut road. We'll regroup and try to come back strong there."

Salem's Brent Mackowak (149) scored his team's only pin in the 119-pound contest, pinning Dan Bonnett in 1:02. The Vikings recorded their first Western Lakes Activities Association victory by outscoring Farmington 18-9 in the third quarter. Central had led 8-6 after one quarter and 22-21 at the half. The Falcons challenged Central's 10-point advantage in the fourth period, outscoring the Vikes 21-14, but it was to no avail. Central improved to 4-2 overall, 1-4 in the W.L.A.A. Farmington fell to 1-5 overall, 0-4 in the W.L.A.A. and 0-2 in the Lakes Division. "Chris McFarlane did most of the damage for Central, scoring 23 points. Three players reached double-figures in scoring for Farmington: Steve Gallagher (14), Jayson Childress (12) and Rob Cook (10).

Oakland CC gets much-needed win

Four days earlier, Oakland Community College basketball coach Lynn Reed thought his team had played very well. Problem was the Raiders had lost to Mott CC. "The defeat had left (OCC) on the precipice; another loss and any hopes for an Eastern Conference regular-season title would evaporate. And with Macomb CC — the conference's only unbeaten team — next on the Raiders' agenda, Wednesday's game had a must-win label pinned to it. Must-win to everyone but Reed, anyway. He likes to focus his team on the end-of-the-season tournaments, which can reap greater dividends — like a National Junior College Athletic Association Division II championship, which Reed's 1987 team captured after failing to win the conference title. But the current Raiders responded to the challenge against Macomb, improving an incredible 67 percent from the floor (34-of-51) in disposing of the Monarchs 90-83 at OCC," said Reed. "They shot very well in the first half, too. They're a good basketball team. But we played very well." WINNING WAS something even Reed conceded his team needed to do, after two straight losses. "We had to win if we're going to be in contention in the league," he said. OCC won because, according to Reed, "We executed better, ran our offense better for the whole game." Even though Macomb shot well in the first half, OCC still led 44-41 at the intermission. In the second half, the Raiders opened up a 12-point advantage, but the Monarchs — who converted 11 three-pointers in the game to OCC's five — charged back. However, they never caught up. Again, offensive balance spared OCC. James Escoe (from Southfield) had 22 points, nine rebounds and four assists, and "played an excellent game," according to his coach Ed Whitaker. Ed Whitaker added 12 points apiece, with Hill grabbing seven boards and Whitaker dishing out five assists. Starlin Stevens and Jerry Prieskorn contributed 11 points apiece. Prieskorn had 11 rebounds, Khari Maxwell totaled eight points and six boards. For Macomb, Mike Moscato led the way with 29 points; Shawn Jones had 13 and Mike Gurney 12. OCC stands at 16-2 overall, 6-2 in the conference. Macomb (11-7 overall) and Mott CC are tied for first at 7-1, as the conference enters its second half.

Harrison cagers subdue WLW

By Darron A. Nichols staff writer
It took Farmington Hills Harrison nearly 3 1/2 quarters Friday, but the Hawks finally put host Walled Lake Western away 74-51 in a boys basketball game. Harrison improved its record to 8-2 overall and 2-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division. Western dropped to 4-7 overall and 1-3 in the division. "It was a good win for us," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "We got a lot of different contributions. It's nice to have 12 kids that can play." "I don't know why we couldn't put them away until the fourth quarter. I guess it's because they have a young team and they were playing on adrenaline. Plus, whenever we would push the lead to 10, they would hit a three-pointer to bring it back." Harrison opened the fourth quarter with a 14-4 run that gave the Hawks a 57-41 lead. Junior center Paul Gilydis scored three consecutive baskets on post-moves and senior forward Andy Smith scored two straight baskets during the run. "I was disappointed with our performance in the fourth quarter," Walled Lake Western coach Chuck Henry said. "When the game got tight and it was gut-check time they seized the opportunity (to win). I think the offensive rebounds killed us. They really hit the boards, and they got a lot of put-backs." WESTERN TRAILED, 15-7 after

Vikes trim Falcons

A big third quarter was about all Walled Lake Central needed to defeat Farmington 34-31 Friday at Farmington. The Vikings recorded their first Western Lakes Activities Association victory by outscoring Farmington 18-9 in the third quarter. Central had led 8-6 after one quarter and 22-21 at the half. The Falcons challenged Central's 10-point advantage in the fourth period, outscoring the Vikes 21-14, but it was to no avail. Central improved to 4-2 overall, 1-4 in the W.L.A.A. Farmington fell to 1-5 overall, 0-4 in the W.L.A.A. and 0-2 in the Lakes Division. "Chris McFarlane did most of the damage for Central, scoring 23 points. Three players reached double-figures in scoring for Farmington: Steve Gallagher (14), Jayson Childress (12) and Rob Cook (10). NICHOLSON'S 68-N. FARMINGTON 42. The difference in this W.L.A.A. game was at the free-throw line, where Lavonia Stevenson outscored the host Raiders by 28 points. The Spartans, now 5-4 overall and 3-2 in the W.L.A.A., converted 31 of their 47 free-throw attempts. North was 3-of-8 at the line. "That was the story of the game," said North coach Tom Negoshian, whose team had five more free-throw goals than Stevenson. Senior guard Phil Wood scored a game-high 23 points for Stevenson, and made six of his free-throw attempts in the final quarter. Senior Dan Gibbons and junior Matt Grodzinski added 16 and 13 points, respectively. "It was an ugly game," Spartan coach Jim McElroy said. "They were down at half and had to press. I think our speed got to their side. They're a very physical team." John Strutz scored 15 points for the Raiders, who fell to 4-6 overall and 2-2 in the W.L.A.A. Bill Chivak added 13 points for North. Smith led all scorers for Harrison with 21 points and seven rebounds. Andy Fitzpatrick added 13 points and six rebounds and Gilydis chipped in 10 points and seven rebounds. Kubik led Walled Lake Western with 11 points and Bill Hume added eight. Teachman said a major factor in the win was the total team effort he got, especially on the defensive end of the floor. "We got a total team effort tonight," he said. "I had Drew Rick and Mike Pavesi played some valuable and smart minutes—Dan Hight shut down Kubic and Roy Granger gave us a good defensive effort. We did what we had to do in order for us to win. I really enjoy having more than five players that can play well. This is a fine group that can work with."

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