

## Sports

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(F18)

## Harrison routs Rice in grid opener, 32-0

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Nobody would have ever thought mercy substitutions would be part of a first-time meeting between football powers Farmington Hills Harrison and Birmingham Brother Rice. But that was how the much-hyped contest ended Saturday night in the Silverdome as Harrison rolled over the Warriors 32-0 in the Prep Kickoff Classic.

The game matched two of the state's most traditional-rich teams, each led by a legendary coach and each having won four state championships.

"It's a big win for our program, but we have to remember it's just one game," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "There are some years they're going to whip our butts and some years we're going to whip theirs."

"But I admire the Rice program. Our kids were playing this like it was a state championship, and Rice has to face that every week."

**HARRISON'S ROY** Granger made his first start at tailback and four touchdowns on 28 carries.

The 5-foot-8, 155-pound senior scored on runs of 5, 2 and 64 yards in

the first half, and the Hawks led 19-0 at halftime. Granger dashed 64 yards again in the fourth quarter to finish the scoring with 7:20 remaining.

"I think our front line did it for us," Granger said. "Before I could get hit at the line, they had already moved them back five yards."

"Now I have to take (the offensive linemen) to dinner. I thought we were good around, but they were taking it seriously."

Harrison got an emotional lift early, Herrington said, when the Hawks took the opening kickoff at their 47-yard line and drove for a TD in 10 plays, including seven runs by Granger.

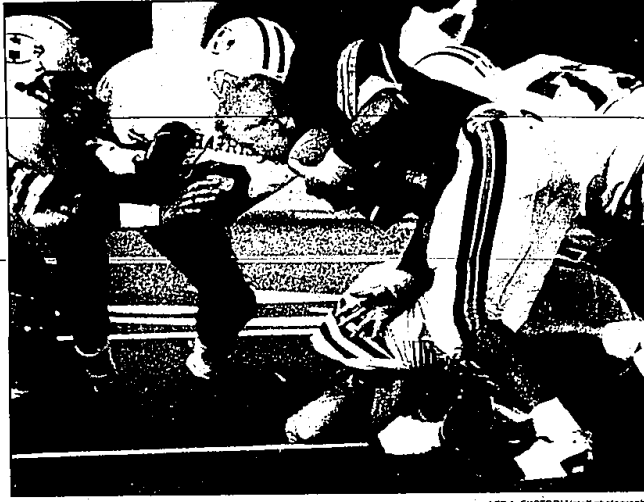
"When you're playing Rice, you never know if you can move the ball or not," Herrington said. "But we found out we could move it, and it gave them a lot of confidence."

Granger finished an 11-play, 71-yard drive early in the second quarter and all but shut the door on Rice with his 64-yard sprint, which came on first down after Harrison stopped the Warriors on downs at the Harrison 35.

**THE HAWKS** were just as impressive on defense, holding Rice to 17 yards rushing. Sean Johnson was Rice's leading rusher with 18 yards while Marcus Harvey was held to 9 yards on 14 carries.

"We knew from watching the scrimmage he's a lateral runner and likes to hit the seams," Herrington said. "We wanted to slide with him and hope we could contain him. But that's coaching talk. Either the kids tackle him or they don't."

The Warriors had better success in the air, though quarterback Steve Merchant was constantly harassed. Harrison came up with big plays and



LEE A. EKSTROM/staff photographer

Rice quarterback Steve Merchant lost his helmet upon impact with Harrison linebacker

Mike Pesci (32). Merchant, who gained 3 yards on his only intended carry, was not hurt.

stopped several Rice drives despite the fact Merchant was 11-of-25 for 112 yards. Matt Allen caught three passes for 80 yards.

Rice drove to the Harrison 3 but was stopped on fourth-and-goal with the Hawks leading 12-0. After a short punt, the Warriors got the ball at the Harrison 26 but went nowhere in four downs. Granger broke his first long run on the next play.

"The defense is awesome," Herrington said. "(Tackle) Jason Gloetzer is definitely an all-state football player. Nobody likes to run his way. (Linebacker Mike) Pesci is

so smart; he's always in the right place."

In the third quarter, Keye Smith's perfectly-placed punt pinned the Warriors at their 1. The Hawks got the ball at the Rice 22 and took a 25-0 lead on Andy Fitzpatrick's fourth-down swing pass to Dan Hight, who raced 23 yards.

**FITZPATRICK WAS** 5-of-13 for 66 yards in his first varsity start at quarterback.

Rice drove to the Harrison 18 with the help of a clipping penalty, but Merchant's pass was intercepted by

Hight on the second play of the fourth quarter. Two possessions later Granger scored his fourth TD, and Herrington began substituting.

"They beat us fairly and squarely," Rice coach Al Francisco said, adding he wasn't surprised by Harrison's strong defense. "We saw them on film over and over. We tried our best to compete with them, but we just couldn't today."

"Maybe our kids will really get together now. I think they're the type of kids to do that."



LEE A. EKSTROM/staff photographer

Roy Granger prances into the end zone for one of his four touchdowns Saturday night.

## Raiders battle but lose

North Farmington played a good game against a top-notch football team Friday, but the Raiders came up short in the season opener at Pontiac Northern, 21-14.

Daren Talley's 4-run yard touchdown run with 1:14 to play in the fourth quarter gave the Huskies a 19-14 lead, and they added a two-point conversion.

Talley rushed for 79 yards on 16 carries, scored two TDs, intercepted two passes and returned a punt 50 yards to set up the winning score.

"We had him boxed in a couple times, and he made a great individual effort every time," North coach Jim O'Leary said. "He's one of the best backs I've ever seen. He does it all — and he's a power runner, too."

North scored first on Todd Anderson's 17-yard run in the first quarter, capping a four-play, 76-yard drive. Adam Chalmers kicked the first of two extra points.

Talley, a 5-foot-11, 185-pound junior, dashed 18 yards for Northern, and the PAT kick forced a 7-7 halftime tie.

The Raiders needed three plays to cover 45 yards and take a 14-7 lead on Mark Temple's 44-yard pass to Mike Jehle at 9:04 in the third quarter.

**Our kids aren't going to put their heads down. They know they went against a good ball team and played them even up.**

— Jim O'Leary  
North football coach

Tom Herring ran 37 yards for another Northern score with 1:30 left in the quarter, but a missed extra-point kick preserved a 14-13 lead for North.

"In my estimation, this is the best team we'll see all year," O'Leary said. "We led for 47 minutes. Our kids aren't going to put their heads down. They know they went against a good ball team and played them even up."

Temple was 3-of-10 passing for 48 yards. Anderson gained 80 yards on 16 rushes, Jon Sturtz 35 on four. North had 150 rushing yards and 198 total, the Huskies 144 and 206, respectively.

**W.BLOOMFIELD 20, FARMINGTON 8:** The host Lakers scored in each of the first three quarters

in the season opener for both teams Friday, but West Bloomfield coach Joe Brandell gave his defense the credit for his team's 14-0 halftime lead.

"The defense had an outstanding first half," he said. "The defense really shut them down."

Greg Perry opened the scoring with a 38-yard run, and Neil Graziano kicked the extra point. Quarterback Tom Andre scored on a 15-yard run in the second quarter, and Graziano's extra point made it 14-0.

Farmington trimmed the lead to 14-8 on its opening drive of the second half, highlighted by a 54-yard scoring run by Ryan Adams. The Lakers came right back with a 75-yard, 16-play drive, capped by Perry's 5-yard run. A key play was a defensive pass interference penalty on a fourth-and-22 pass from Farmington's 32, which kept the drive alive.

Defensive end Mark Beuerle led the Lakers defense. He had 12 tackles, including four for losses, 10 first hits and caused two fumbles. West Bloomfield ran for 186 yards and passed for 30. Andre ran 17 times for 70 yards while Perry had 67 yards on 10 carries. Farmington tallied 98 yards rushing and 35 passing.

## CC routs Mules, 24-6

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

Rick Coratti is Redford Catholic Central's defensive coordinator, but on Saturday his shoe size mattered most.

Coratti wears a size 9 1/2 and that was important since CC's all-purpose player Frank Yoakam forgot his turf shoes at home.

Yoakam, who also wears a 9 1/2, borrowed a pair of Coratti's old shoes and the 5-foot-10, 170-pounder used them to his advantage in CC's 24-6 season-opening win over Temperance-Bedford at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Yoakam, CC's fastest player, took the opening kickoff of the second half and raced 88 yards for the game's first touchdown. Kerry Zavagnin's extra point gave CC a 7-0 lead with 11:46 remaining in the third quarter.

Yoakam later blocked an extra point and returned a punt 70 yards for a TD, prompting people to wonder if it was Yoakam or the shoes.

"Well, it takes 11 men to score a TD (touchdown)," said Yoakam, who scored once on a kickoff return and once on a punt return during CC's Class AA championship season a year ago. "I feel we have a better team than last year. There's more togetherness on this year's team. The juniors get along with the seniors, we're like one big family. Last year there were cliques. This year there's no cliques."

CC, which struggled to get past Bedford, 10-8, in last year's season opener, found itself in a scoreless tie at halftime with Bedford.

After CC took a 7-0 lead, Bedford recovered a CC fumble and drove 62 yards for a score, finishing the drive on a 43-yard screen pass from quarterback Randall Kruff to Jess Jurley with 5:59 remaining in the third quarter.

But Yoakam snuck his hand in to block the extra point attempt by Bedford, keeping the score at 7-6.

"Coach (Tom Mach) had (Dan) Kelly and (Dan) Gusoff spread on the line and let me go right through the line," said Yoakam. "Coach uses his speed to his advantage. He's a smart man."

The Shamrocks took the ensuing kickoff and drove to Bedford's 20, where they settled for Zavagnin's 37-yard field goal for a 10-6 lead. After the CC defense stopped Bedford on three plays, Yoakam fielded a Bedford punt at the CC 30 and took it past the Kicking Mules' line of defense for a score and a 16-6 lead.

Zavagnin's extra point made the score 17-6 with 10:45 remaining in the game.

CC closed out the scoring later in the quarter, as junior quarterback Chris Barbara threw the ball into a crowd at the goal line and it was caught by Matt Roney for a 24-6 lead. Zavagnin's PAT made it 24-6.

CC outgained Bedford, 238-149 in total yardage and more importantly held the Kicking Mules to 29 yards on the ground in 30 carries. Senior tailback Jeff Tibaldi led CC with 88 yards in 14 carries and almost had himself a TD before fumbling on Bedford's goal line near the end of the first half.

"I told him that kind of situation will make you a better back," Mach said of Tibaldi.

Barbara, making his varsity debut, completed only two-of-three passes for 61 yards, but he was CC's second leading rusher with 47 yards on 10 carries. Barbara got the call to start over junior John Priestap and senior Mat Pinard, but Mach made no promises about the second game Saturday at 7:30 p.m. against Detroit Mumford at Livonia Clarenceville.

A lot of things happen in your first varsity game that you're not used to, but I thought Chris handled things well," said Mach. "I don't know what the future holds because the No. 1 spot is earned every week at each position and nothing comes guaranteed."

CC's defense was led by defensive back Brett Walter, who had an interception, and linebackers Jerry Stegall and Joe Herman, who combined for 17 tackles.

## 3rd quarter is Mercy's downfall

South Lyon outscored Farmington Hills Mercy 16-5 in the third quarter Thursday and held on to beat the Marlins 46-43 in a non-league girls basketball game.

The Marlins, who are 2-1 overall, led 29-23 at halftime before falling apart in the third quarter. South Lyon improved to 3-1 overall.

"I knew they were a good team, but I think we were favored and they were geared up to play us," Mercy coach Larry Baker said. "Our execution was absolutely atrocious."

"I wasn't happy at halftime. We were passing up scoring opportunities, and I looked for a little better execution in the second half, but what we got was poor execution and worse defense. We played back on our heels and that allowed their point guard (Shelly Pietila) to penetrate."

Pietila scored 14 points for South Lyon and senior center Nikki Bailey benefitted from Pietila's passing by scoring a team-high 16 points.

Mercy was led by Laure DeMatia with 21 points. Mary Bleniewicz had 12 points, including a pair of three-point shots, but the rest of the team combined for only 10 points.

"That's not going to cut it," Baker said. Senior guard Kathleen Berrigan "showed flashes of brilliance," according to Baker, "but didn't finish her shots and tried to do too much in the second half."

## girls basketball

**OXFORD 59, FARMINGTON 33:** Oxford turned a competitive game into a rout Thursday by outscoring Farmington 38-17 in the second half.

The win evened Oxford's record at 1-1. Farmington is 1-3 overall.

The Falcons could have made it closer but had trouble at the free throw line, converting only six of 24 shots.

Freshman Andrea Salyer was a bright spot for Farmington, scoring 12 points and grabbing nine rebounds. Becky Washcock added seven points, while Tammy Allen tied Salyer in the rebound department with nine.

Oxford was led by Krista Stransky with 16 points, including two three pointers and nine points in the third quarter when the Wildcats outscored Farmington 18-9 to expand a 21-16 halftime lead. Danielle Corrigan, a 6-foot-3 center, had 14 points.

"We had a good game for three quarters," Farmington coach Brian Seibach said. "We played a lot smarter; that's for sure. I thought we got a little tired and fell apart."

"We handled the pressure a lot better. If we can do that, we'll stay in ballgames. We're heading in the right direction."

**REDFORD UNION 54, HARRISON 26:** Senior guard Shannon Morris gave coach Gary Fuiks an all-round effort Thursday with 26 points, 10 rebounds, five steals and four assists.

The Panthers (4-0) scored the game's first 13 points as they battled a tough staying undefeated in four games.

"Our defense was outstanding," Fuiks said. "We're not trying to show a lot more composure. We're letting teams back because we're getting a lead, which is a difference from last year."

Junior forward Wendy Malecki enjoyed her fourth straight double-figure effort with 13 points. Sophomore guard Jamie Zalek added seven points.

Junior center Heather Hopkins was Harrison's only threat, finishing with 22 of the Hawks' 26 points. She also had 11 rebounds. Freshman forward Krista Snow scored the other four points. Harrison is 1-2.

Shannon Morris had a great game," Harrison coach Pete Mantyla said. "She scored off picks, off rebounds, off the dribble. They rebounded aggressively and killed us on the offensive boards. We didn't hit a perimeter shot all night."

## Madonna rallies to defeat K'zoo

One very positive element emerged from Madonna University's volleyball match against visiting Kalamazoo College Thursday.

It just took an awfully-long time to happen.

A lot of things happen in your first varsity game that you're not used to, but I thought Chris handled things well," said Mach. "I don't know what the future holds because the No. 1 spot is earned every week at each position and nothing comes guaranteed."

CC's defense was led by defensive back Brett Walter, who had an interception, and linebackers Jerry Stegall and Joe Herman, who combined for 17 tackles.

The Crusaders were on the verge of defeat. The best-of-five match was tied at two games apiece and they trailed the Lady Hornets 11-2 in the decisive fifth game.

That's when they dug down a bit deeper. Sparked by the outside attack of Elena Oparka, a transfer from Schoolcraft College, Madonna rallied to edge Kalamazoo 17-15 and win the match, three games to two.

The Crusaders won the second and third games, 15-7 and 15-8. Kalamazoo won the first and fourth games, 15-12 and 15-9.

"We just really hit the ball well tonight," said Madonna coach Jerry Abraham. "It was a great match. The kids stuck in there and fought."

Oparka in particular. The 5-foot-9 junior collected six kills in the fifth game to ignite the Crusader comeback; she finished with 18 for the match.

Dana Hicks-Finley led Madonna with 14 kills in the match. Tonia Smith (from Wallled Lake Central) had 20 kills and Julie Adams finished with 10.

Abraham also singled out the efforts of setter Penny Baker and defensive specialist Jenny Sladewski (Livonia Stevenson), who had 14 digs.

Madonna, now 4-5 overall, hosts Saginaw Valley State at 7 p.m. Tuesday.