

Sports

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Hawks flex muscles, blitz Canton 48-0

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Farmington Hills Harrison put on a first-half football demonstration that could only be described as awesome Friday night.

The Hawks scored the first six times they had the ball, rolled up a 41-0 halftime lead and crushed host Plymouth Canton 48-0.

Harrison, the top-ranked team in the state covering all classes, is 2-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 4-0 overall. The Chiefs fell to 0-2 and 1-3 after losing their third straight.

"You never really know what's going to happen, but we're a good football team with a lot of speed," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "When you've got good speed and can hit teams quickly, it makes it tough for them to come back."

The Hawks demonstrated their speed by scoring several times on big plays.

TAILBACK ROY Granger rushed for two touchdowns on runs of 82 and 1 yard, and quarterback Andy Fitzpatrick threw TD passes of 71, 8 and 65 yards to Greg Piscopink, Duane Anderson and Matt Gordon, respectively. Reserve quarterback Jeff Ciolek connected with Key Smith for a 69-yard TD pass, and up-back Mike Pesci scored from 1 yard.

"They have a lot of talent," Canton coach Bob Kheonle said. "They're capable of the big plays any time — on the ground or in the air."

"We talked to (the Canton players) all week about psychologically not being in awe of this team. But we

football

knew it was a matter of time before they would do something to us. Granger is something else, isn't he?" Granger (5-8, 155) finished with 111 yards rushing on just 10 carries. Reserve running back Chad Haney had the most attempts (11) as the Hawks began subbing early in the second quarter. Fitzpatrick was 5-of-7 passing for 151 yards, Ciolek 2-of-4 for 77.

"Andy is getting better every day," Herrington said. "It was rough for him the first two games, having to play (Brother) Rice and (Plymouth) Salem. He's a much better player now."

"Things worked and we looked good, but the (starters) didn't get to play a lot. A lot of guys were able to play and that's good for team morale."

DESPITE THE offensive show, Kheonle was more impressed — and Herrington more pleased by the defense the Hawks played.

Harrison limited the Chiefs to 58 yards rushing and 83 total. The Hawks countered with 331 yards (269 by the first team). Harrison had 117 net rushing and 152 passing.

The Chiefs crossed midfield only once under their own initiative but twice received the ball in the second half on Harrison's side of the 50 after a change of possession.

"We were disappointed with our defense last week (against Walled Lake Western), and this week we re-

ally played well," Herrington said. "Defense was the key the whole week."

"In fact, we didn't spend much time on offense. We wanted to make sure we got back to where we were against Rice, and I think we were."

Pesci's short run capped a sustained scoring drive off the opening kick after Granger carried on the six previous plays.

Harrison's defense set up the next three scores. Piscopink blocked a 37-yard field goal attempt by Jeff Nafe and then raced 71 yards after taking a pass as he cut across the middle.

"WE'VE GOT four kids who run 4.5s in the 40-yard dash," Herrington said, referring to Harrison's team speed and Granger, Piscopink, Smith and Anderson in particular.

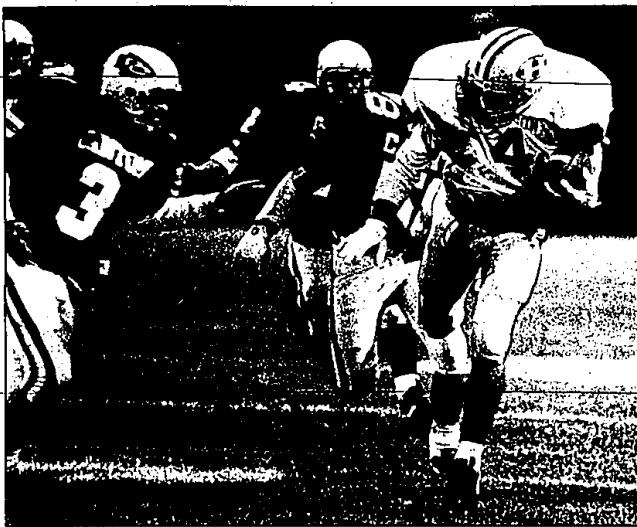
Anderson intercepted a pass and two plays later Granger hurdled a lineman, made a spin move at the 50 and completed his 62-yard run.

Mike Gloetzer recovered a fumble at the Canton 5, and Fitzpatrick passed to Anderson for a TD on the next play. Dan Hight's 49-yard punt return to the Canton 6 set up Granger's second TD, and Harrison led 34-0 with 9:58 left in the second quarter.

Hight, who starts at swingback and safety, suffered a broken collarbone on the punt and will be out four to six weeks, according to Herrington.

"He's the key to our secondary," he said. "Right now it looks like (it will have) a big impact, but kids have a way of stepping up and filling in for injured players."

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SHARON LE MEUX/staff photographer

Greg Piscopink (4) broke loose for a 71-yard touchdown following a pass from Andy Fitzpatrick in Harrison's 48-0 rout of Canton. Piscopink ran past Frank Learned (3).

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Marting leaves Spartans smarting

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

The powerful running and heavy hitting of Farmington's Chris Marting left the Livonia Stevenson football team smarting Saturday afternoon.

Marting, a senior who gained 140 yards on 28 carries, also made the big hit on defense in overtime as Farmington prevailed, 15-7, before an enthusiastic Homecoming crowd.

With Farmington clinging to its 15-7 lead in overtime, Marting came up from the secondary to stop Stevenson running back Chad Myers for a 4-yard loss on fourth down from the Farmington 2.

The play ended the game and continued the Falcons' surprising early season momentum.

"I figured we could stop them, it meant too much to us to let them score," said Marting. "I saw him in the slot out there and knew they were coming my way. (Inside linebacker) Matt Sikiski helped me take him down."

The win raised Farmington's record to 3-1 overall, 2-0 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association. While few can remember a Farmington team with such an impressive record, coach Bernie Call puts everything in perspective with games against Plymouth Salem, North Farmington and Westland John Glenn on the horizon.

"We're 3-1 but we've got a hard road to hoe,"

Call said. "We've got Salem this week and they killed Glenn Friday, then North and Glenn. We've got to keep getting better each week."

Farmington and Stevenson battled to a 7-7 tie after regulation and each was given four plays from the opponent's 10-yard line to score in overtime. The Falcons had the first possession and scored on a 7-yard pass on third down from quarterback David Link to Dave Monge.

Marting's two-point conversion run gave Farmington a 15-7 lead.

Stevenson took the next possession, and on fourth down from the 2, Monge was called for a questionable pass interference penalty in the end zone, giving the Spartans another four downs to work with at the 3. But the Spartans could gain only one yard in the next three plays, setting up Marting's defensive play that preserved the Farmington win.

The loss dropped Stevenson to 2-2 overall and left the Spartans winless in two Lakes Division games.

"You hate to lose any game, but that's a very tough way to lose one," Stevenson coach Jack Reardon said. "When you don't get in from that close, you don't deserve to win. Anyone could have won this game and they won it."

Call didn't think Monge was guilty of pass interference in overtime, but knew his defense could overcome the setback.

"I couldn't see it from our side of the field, but I

thought there were at least four other plays earlier on either side that could have been called for pass interference and the referees didn't call them, so I was shocked," Call said. "Our defensive coach, John Bechter, has done just a super job and really helps us."

Farmington's defense also came up big at the end of regulation, as Ryan Adams broke through the Stevenson line and blocked Rami Khoury's 28-yard field goal attempt with eight seconds left in the fourth quarter.

Farmington, which dominated the fourth quarter, had driven to the Stevenson 16-yard line on the previous series but got sacked on a fake field goal attempt on fourth down.

Farmington, which outgained Stevenson 270-210 in total yardage, took a 7-0 halftime lead on a 3-yard TD pass from Link to Corby Lavery with 3:43 left in the first quarter. Michael Gies kicked the extra point.

Marting carried six times for 26 yards on the 85-yard drive.

"Marting is a good back, one of the better ones in the state, but we've got to give the ball to others because he's taking a beating," Call said.

Stevenson tied the score in the third quarter as quarterback Ryan Furkas completed a 10-yard TD pass to Mitch Lietzau with 2:16 remaining and Khoury converted the extra point.

Chris Lehtil led Stevenson with 64 yards on 15 carries, and Myers had 57 yards on 11 carries.

North routes Vikes

North Farmington scored the game's first eight touchdowns Friday night in a 56-12 football rout of host Walled Lake Central.

The game, described by coach Jim O'Leary as "one of those when everyone (on the roster) plays," improved North's record to 3-1 overall and 2-0 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Central is winless in four games and 0-2 in the Lakes Division.

North running back Jack Wilks scored three touchdowns and finished with 81 yards on 10 carries. Jon Sturtz gained 35 yards on seven attempts for the Raiders, who piled up 246 yards in total offense.

Central gained 186 yards in total offense, including 125 through the air but failed to score until late in the fourth quarter when quarterback Mike Giusi threw touchdown passes of 13 and 23 yards.

North sustained long possessions the entire game, scoring on drives of 64, 60, 53, 60, 37, 53 and 51 yards.

North took a 7-0 lead after one quarter on Wilks' 5-yard run and Adam Chalmers' point after touchdown.

The Raiders built their lead to 28-0 at halftime, scoring on a 1-yard run by Jason Horwitz and a pair of 4-yard runs by Wilks.

The North express couldn't be stopped in the third quarter as the Raiders took advantage of a short Central punt and scored 37 yards later on Guy Moraskey's 9-yard run. Chalmers' fourth extra point of the game gave North a 35-0 lead.

North defensive back Brian Lee spoiled Central's next possession, intercepting a pass and returning it 23 yards for a score. Scott Lord kicked the extra point for a 42-0 lead.

The Raiders scored again in the third quarter on a 1-yard run by Mike Corriere, and they finished their scoring in the fourth quarter on Rob Chuba's 1-yard plunge.

North didn't need to pass but when it did quarterback Mark Temple was effective, completing four of six passes for 59 yards. Lee caught two of the passes for 40 yards.

Persistence pays
Marlins force OT, beat LadywoodBy Brad Emons
staff writer

No, the Beatles aren't back together, but the finish was certainly a scream Thursday night as Farmington Hills Marlins went into overtime to beat Livonia Ladywood, 51-47, in a battle of fierce girls basketball rivals.

An estimated crowd of 1,000 certainly had a deafening effect inside Redford Catholic Central High's gym.

It was a "Hard Days Night" for the victorious Marlins, who finally reeled in the Blazers during the latter stretches of the game.

Ladywood, on the strength of three-point shooter Mary Jo Kelly (16 points), enjoyed a 34-30 advantage after three quarters.

But Mercy held Ladywood to only three shots from the field in the final quarter and forced 11 turnovers, capping the comeback when senior center Laure DeMattia (14 points) split a pair of free throws with seven seconds left in regulation.

With the score tied at 41-41, Mercy made a McCartney-like statement, completing the "Long and Winding Road" by outscoring Ladywood 10-6 in OT.

Kelly nailed a three-pointer to start the period, but Mercy responded with six critical points, four by senior guard Kathleen Berrigan, who led all scorers with 19 points.

"OUR SENIORS stepped up big and Berrigan, in some respect, took the game over," said Mercy coach Larry Baker, whose team is 6-2 overall. "Our motto this season is to play an entire 32-minute game. The first thing I said between the end of regulation and the overtime is that it's now a 35-minute game. Maybe all the conditioning and weightlifting we accomplished through August

girls basketball

paid off. We've been able to finish games against some tough teams."

Mercy was also able to overcome nine-first quarter turnovers, trailing by only one, 12-11.

The Marlins led by as many as five in the second period, only to watch the lead disappear in the last 2:13 (before intermission) on three straight Ladywood 3-pointers, including two by Kelly.

Mercy struggled to find itself in the third, falling behind as many as seven before slicing the deficit back to four on Valerie Jones' free throw with 58 seconds to go.

"Jones and Marshelle Brooks both played their best games of the season off the bench," Baker said. "And that was a real boost to us because we had to play over their adrenaline rush and our mistakes."

But it was the Blazers' mistakes — 32 turnovers on the night — which contributed to their demise in the final quarter.

They were lucky, however, to stay pretty much even thanks to three free throws by Janet Davis (15 points) and a clutch drive to the hoop by 6-foot-1 junior center Katie Wright with 21 seconds left.

MERCY, USING what Baker called "a grind-it-out style," forced the OT by converting steals into layups off a relentless full-court press. "We just didn't execute at all, we got very passive," said Ladywood coach Ed Kavanaugh, whose team fell to 5-3 overall. "We didn't run our offense, or anything for that matter. We were just

content to pass the ball around until they stole it." Berrigan's shooting (8-of-15 from the floor) certainly saved the Marlins from dropping their Catholic League Central Division opener. Mercy's other four starters shot a combined 9-for-38 (23.6 percent).

"I was disappointed that some of our more experienced players got tense at the start and were never able to overcome that," Baker said.

DeMattia, the 5-foot-10 senior, struggled for most of four quarters against Ladywood's big front line.

Wright, the big thorn, she received eight blocks before fouling out in the final seven seconds of regulation.

"It hurt when we took her (Wright) out," Kavanaugh said. "I thought the foul she went out on was a clean block. But the official saw it another way."

UNDERSTANDLY, Ladywood took a timeout to ice DeMattia at line. She had made only 1-of-8 free throws up until that point.

But when Mercy needed somebody, DeMattia provided 'help.'

"I just tried to boost her confidence (in the huddle)," Baker said. "She's an outstanding free throw shooter, somewhere in the 60 percent range. I was certain she'd get one."

DeMattia went on to score four points in the overtime and hand Ladywood its second tough setback of the week (the Blazers also lost Tuesday to state-ranked Detroit De'Orres).

"We've been playing some good teams and we're almost there," Kavanaugh said. "We're one step away, but not quite there yet."



ART EMANUEL/Staff photographer

Kathleen Berrigan shuttles a pass around Ladywood defender Katie Wright. The Marlins won in overtime.