

Sports

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Raiders end Glenn jinx with 21-20 win

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

North Farmington was the last football team other than Westland John Glenn to represent the Lakes Division in the Western Lakes Activities Association championship game.

But the Raiders are on track for a return engagement later this month after they snapped a streak of four straight losses to Glenn with a 21-20 victory Saturday afternoon at North.

In so doing, the Raiders might have ended Glenn's domination of

the Lakes title as well.

North has wins over Plymouth Salem and the Rockets for the first time since 1986 with division games remaining against Farmington and Livonia Stevenson. The Raiders, who have won their last four, are 3-0 in the division and 4-1 overall. Glenn is 1-2 and 3-2.

North, Glenn and Stevenson were Lakes tri-champions in 1986 and '87, but the Raiders won the titlebreaker in '86 and played for the WLAAC crown.

"WE HAVE two division games

left and we're going to play them the same way we did against Glenn," North senior tackle Eric Porter said. "This win has lifted this team off its feet."

"Some people had doubts at the beginning, but we've totally picked it up. We're an average football team with a lot of heart."

North, which trailed 14-6 at halftime, used a potent running game to control the ball and take the lead in the second half, but needed a big defensive stop to win the game.

After the Raiders went ahead 21-14 early in the fourth quarter, Glenn

had a long drive that culminated in quarterback Terry Hower's 1-yard bootleg run on fourth down.

With 2:56 left to play, the Rockets attempted a two-point conversion and a victory in regulation time. Glenn coach Chuck Gordon said a strong wind (cutting northeast as the Rockets faced the south goal) had nothing to do with the decision.

Hower rolled out, showed run and then tried to hit tight end Mike Blint with a pass at the goal line, but it was incomplete. North proceeded to run out the clock.

"We talked it over as a staff, we asked the captains what they wanted to do and we decided we were going for it then and there," Glenn coach Chuck Gordon said.

"The consensus on our sideline was to go for it right now. If it works, it's a heck of a call; if it doesn't, you have to live with it."

NORTH BEGAN the second half powering the ball at the Rockets, but its first possession ended with a fumble at the Glenn 5-yard line.

The Raiders got the ball back when Jon Sturtz recovered a fumble at the Rocket 17. Todd Anderson, who carried 28 times and for 143 yards, ran 3 yards for the TD and added the two-point conversion to tie the score late in the third period.

"I thought the kids showed a lot of poise after (the fumble)," North coach Jim O'Leary said. "It was the same scenario as Salem. We've been down but come back. The kids play under adversity and they win."

Porter and (senior guard Vern) Ratliff should have been on the bench. Both were hurt. Neither one could hardly walk, but they said "No way, coach, we're playing."

North scored again (21-14) following an interception by Mike Hamill at midfield. The Raiders ran nine straight running plays, with Anderson scoring from 12 yards.

Glenn moved the ball through the

air on its next possession, Hower (five of eight for 91 yards) finding Jon Schuster for a 25-yard gain to the North 7. Hower passed 38 yards to Rick Bennett in the first half, putting the ball on the North 2 and setting up John Ward's TD run for a 14-6 lead with 48 seconds left.

"WE HIT A couple big plays, but it would have helped if we had been a little more consistent," Gordon said. "We got into a situation where the game was either tied or we were behind and had to get something

going."

Glenn scored first as Ed Jeannin broke loose for a 51-yard run in the first quarter, but the Raiders answered with Temple's 5-yard keeper after a 31-yard reception by Brian Lee. But the extra-point kick was blocked and Glenn led 7-6.

Glenn outscored the Raiders 188-175 and outgained them 279-226, but North held tailback Tad Quattlander to 53 yards on 14 carries. Jeannin had 70 yards, Ward and Sturtz 33 apiece.



LEE A. EKSTROM/staff photographer

Jon Sturtz picks up yardage for North Farmington. The Raiders defeated John Glenn for

the first time in five years and put themselves in position to win the Lakes Division.



LEE A. EKSTROM/staff photographer

Mike Hamill (65) and Mike Jehle (61) show their emotions after Hamill intercepted a second-half Glenn pass.

Hawk gridders coast

Senior tailback Roy Granger carried the football eight times, scored four touchdowns and finished with 142 yards Saturday as unbeaten Farmington Hills Harrison rolled over winless Livonia Churchill 49-0.

The Hawks, top-ranked in Class BB, are 5-0 overall and 3-0 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association. The Chargers are 0-3 and 0-5.

Granger raced 80 yards on the first play from scrimmage to start the scoring, and he also had TD runs of 43 and 1 yard as Harrison led 35-0 in the first quarter. He added a 6-yard TD run in the third quarter.

The other first-quarter TDs were scored by Jeff Cislo and Mike Pesci on runs of 1 and 22 yards, respectively.

Harrison finished its scoring with 4:23 left in the third quarter when Andy Fitzpatrick passed 23 yards to Matt Gordon. Ben Pinsky booted six extra points, and Chad Haney added 57 yards rushing and Pesci caught two passes for 18 yards.

Fitzpatrick completed eight of 10 passes for 120 yards. Cislo was two of four for 25 yards, Haney added 57 yards rushing and Pesci caught two passes for 18 yards.

Churchill had seven turnovers. Pesci intercepted two passes, Cislo and Tom Donagrandi one each. The Hawks also recovered three fumbles.

Mark Gletzner had eight tackles to lead the defense, which held the Chargers to 34 yards rushing and 75 total. John Spiz, Dave Gletzner and Pesci made six tackles apiece. Scott Baliko five and Keye Smith four.

Harrison runners take division win

Farmington Hills Harrison conceded the first-place position but then shut the door on Livonia Churchill in boys cross country Thursday, winning 20-40 at Oakland Community College.

The Hawks are 2-1 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association and 4-1 overall. The Chargers are 1-2 and 2-2.

Churchill's Jeff Marius was the first to finish (16:49), but Harrison put the next six runners across.

Jason Zdyrski (15:52) was the top runner for the Hawks, followed by Mike Deana (17:52), Justin Dreyer (18:02), Todd Haney (18:17), Tim Biss (18:25) and Par Larsson (18:29).

PLYMOUTH SALEM took a big step toward winning its third straight Lakes Division title in boys cross country Thursday. The Rocks defeated perennial contender Farmington 26-31 at Cass Benton and ran their record to 3-0 in their half of the WLAAC.

Salem, 4-0 overall, has division duals remaining against Livonia Stevenson this week and Walled Lake Central on Thursday, Oct. 17. The Falcons are 3-1 in the division and 3-2 overall.

"The loss cost us the division title, no question about it," Farmington coach Jerry Young said. The Falcons have Westland John Glenn remaining as their only Lakes opponent. Things looked good early for

boys cross country

Farmington as Dave Clinard crossed the finish line first at 17:10. Teammate Mario Nordini followed in second place at 17:13.

But Tom May, Farmington's third top runner, had to pull out of the race with an ankle injury. The result was that the next four finishers were all from Salem.

"It was a little tougher than we expected," Salem coach Geoff Baker said. "We knew they had Clinard and we knew Mario was within our top five, but we didn't expect him to place second."

Senior Derek Cudini took third (17:32), and juniors Jon Micevicius (17:53) and Justin Richardson (17:55) followed in fourth and fifth. Senior Jayson McDonald's time of 18:02 was good for sixth overall, and senior Steve Boudreau completed the Salem scoring with an 18:17 time and an eighth-place finish.

Farmington's John O'Dell (18:15) broke up the string of Salem finishers with his seventh-place finish, but the Rocks took the next two places

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Rocks halt Farmington win streak

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Farmington had a well-planned defensive scheme to stop Plymouth Salem's potent rushing attack Friday night, but the Rocks eventually won that struggle and the football game.

Salem rushed for 331 yards, tailback Leon Hister and fullback Dan Burke scored two touchdowns apiece and quarterback Pete Zantop passed for the most important TD as the Rocks defeated visiting Farmington 35-15.

Both teams are 2-1 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association and 3-2 overall. Salem won its second straight, ending a three-game win streak by the Falcons.

Farmington's plan was to keep the Rocks from putting the ball in Hister's hands and force Zantop to run instead. That worked well in the first half as Zantop either gave the ball to Burke or ran himself.

Salem eventually solved the dilemma. Hister broke loose for 115 yards on 16 carries and the Rocks used their grind-it-out offense to put distance between them and Farmington.

"THEY WEREN'T going to let us pitch to (Hister) on the option," Salem coach Tom Moshiner said. "They came at us bent on stopping Leon from running the ball and destroying our reads in the triple option."

"The only way we could get it to him was to toss it on the quick pitch. We made a couple minor blocking changes. Once we narrowed it down to what we were going to do, then we just ran 3-4 different plays and we executed them."



BILL BRECHLER/staff photographer

Dave Clinard was the individual winner Thursday, but the Falcons lost the dual meet to Salem.

football

All three backs had big games, Zantop rushing for 109 yards on 17 attempts and Burke 83 on 20 carries. Hister dashed 35 yards to score, and the other three rushing TDs were 4-yard runs.

Salem's ball-control offense is reflected by the fact it ran 71 plays to 46 for the Falcons. Salem had drives of 12, 17, eight and 12 plays leading to its first four TDs and a 27-15 lead.

"A good punishing ground game will wear down people," Moshiner said. "If you're getting 3-4 yards a crack, the defense is staying on the field and the down chains keep moving, that takes a lot out of (an opposing team)."

Despite the 20-point difference and allowing Salem to control the ball, the Falcons played well overall, but coach Bernie Call wasn't content with a moral victory.

"WE THOUGHT we could make it a lot closer," he said. "Take away the (Zantop TD) pass and we're going in leading 7-6 at halftime."

"To come over here and beat them after a big win last week (over Westland John Glenn) would have been asking a lot, but we believed we could beat them. We're going to come back, and we're going to knock somebody off."

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Falcons repeat as city champs

As far as public golf courses go, they don't get much tougher than Copper Creek in Farmington Hills.

In its first full season, Copper Creek couples tight fairways with trees and rolling greens — an ideal setting for the Farmington high school city golf tournament.

Farmington has won the event six out of the last seven years, but the Falcons were expected to have stiff competition Wednesday from North Farmington this year.

North threatened but it wasn't enough as Farmington edged the Raiders 224-228. Farmington Hills Harrison finished third with 293.

"This was a tough course for the kids," said Farmington coach Jim Miner. "We were looking for good competition from North Farmington and we got it. Luckily, we managed to come up with the win."

JUNIOR JASON Buha paced the Falcons, scoring a tournament-low 37. But Miner said junior Dan Hryczk made the difference, tallying a 41.

Miner said he figured Hryczk would shoot 45 or 46 on a tough course like Copper Creek. He has averaged 43 this season.

"When he came in with a 41, I couldn't believe it," Miner said. "That really made a difference for us. We didn't expect Dan to come in that far under his average."

golf

'I am really thrilled. We're in a rebuilding season and this will probably be the only trophy we win this year. I'm pleased.'

— Jim Miner
Farmington golf coach

"Not to take anything away from Jason Buha, but Hryczk was the spark for us today," he said. "Jason is so good that we expect rounds of 37 or 38 from him. But what Dan did for us today is really great."

Sophomore Mike Kovach added a 46 for the winners. Peter True contributed a 47 and Brian Wilson a 53.

Scott Steinhoff and Eric Wilson shot 44 apiece to pace North. Jim Mell finished with 45, Matt Nathan 46 and Paul Hahn 49. Harrison was led by Mike LaCosse (49) and Sean Firth (50).

"I am really thrilled," Miner said. "We're in a rebuilding season and this will probably be the only trophy we win this year. I'm pleased."