

# Coleman always the team player

**WHAT MAKES a sports star?**  
Personality?  
Ability?  
Production?

If you answered A, B and C, you probably figure yourself exceedingly clever. And correct.

But I got news for you. You could have just-as-smugly replied "None of the above," and been just as right.

The closest-to-correct answer is public perception.  
Why? I guess I could say because it's my test, and I say so. But there's a better answer.  
Bill Coleman.

OK, FARMINGTON HARRISON folks, here you head for the phones or grab your pens and papers to denounce this heresy, here me out.

Let me explain. Then make your calls and write your letters of protest.

Coleman, now in his second year at Michigan State, is not the Deion Sanders-type. He does not feed off public adulation; rather, he endures it.

So it is not his personality that makes him a star.  
Ability? There's little doubt he has it. But so far at MSU, Coleman hasn't had much opportunity to display it. He's only played five games, and the Spartans have lost them all.

It could be — and probably should be — noted that maybe MSU is 0-5 because Coleman hasn't been used enough. That's fair. But still, Coleman's ability hasn't really produced that much thus far (he's third on the team in pass receptions, and that's his best statistic) — certainly not enough to merit star status.

Do his high school accomplishments, which without doubt were incredible, earn him such standing? Perhaps — but others with similar prep accolades have gone on to college without anything close to the same fanfare.

HOW MUCH fanfare, you ask? Plenty. How many five-game veterans are among the first to be summoned to post-game interviews (and this, remember, is after his team had lost its fifth-straight)?

When MSU sports information director Ken Hoffman asked who the members of the media wished to speak to "other than the usual players" after Saturday's lopsided loss to Michigan, I said Mill Coleman. "That's not too unusual," Hoffman scoffed.

When Coleman appeared, reporters encircling Courtney Hawkins and Tico Duckett deserted, choosing to mob Coleman — who had enjoyed his finest game as a Spartan. I'm sure: six catches for 81 yards and his first collegiate touchdown, on a 10-yard pass in the third quarter.

Coleman greeted the barrage of questions with that same trademark, easy-going manner — always smiling, patiently giving the same answers to the same questions: "Anything to help the team," and "I still consider myself a quarterback."

AIIIII, YES . . . quarterback. Coleman did exhibit prowess as a receiver, and the play he was asked to describe over and over was his TD catch. But the play that impressed most came in the fourth quarter from the MSU 43. Coleman rotated back on a reverse, took the handoff from quarterback Jim Miller and rifled a 21-yard completion to Hawkins.

It was his first collegiate pass attempt and it was done with authority. Coleman downplayed it, of course: "We were able to get the first down — that made me feel

Behind the setting of Penny Baker — who was named to the all-tournament team and also chosen the NAIA District 23 player of the week — Madonna University captured the three-team University of Michigan-Dearborn volleyball tournament Saturday.

It was the Lady Crusaders third tournament title this season. They defeated Aquinas College 15-6, 15-9, 15-2, and the host team 15-11, 15-5, 15-4, to improve their overall record to 28-9. Madonna is 5-0 in the district, tied with Northwood Institute for first. Northwood visits Madonna next Thursday (Oct. 24).



C.J. Risak

good." But that 21-yard pass carried something else with it, something almost detectable in Coleman's reply, like "It wasn't the last. It'll happen again."

Coleman still has a lot to learn. He says that in every massive interview session, too. A lesson he is reluctantly absorbing is losing: "You learn to deal with it. You take one game at a time. No one likes to lose."

Particularly Coleman, who has already lost more games this season than he did in three years at Harrison.

Which supplies another reason for his stardom, be it deserved or not. The football public needs heroes, someone to adore. In times of strife, fans want someone who isn't closely associated with the failure, but who could deliver the team from it.

Coleman certainly fits that description. By season's end, should the Spartans rebound and win four or five games, he could be hailed as MSU's savior. If he is, I have a feeling it won't be for his receiving ability — I think he'll get his shot at quarterback, and respond.

# Playoff picture begins to take shape

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

**WITH THE STATE** football playoffs only four weeks away, who are the state's best bets to make it to the post-season dance?

You can put your money on at least two area teams, Farmington Harrison (Class BB-Region IV) and Redford Catholic Central (Class AA-Region II).

Both teams are currently 8-4. The area's only other unbeaten is Redford St. Agatha, which leads Class C Region IV. The Aggies could take a big step this week with a win over 5-1 Center Line St. Clement.

Of the once-beaten teams, it appears that 5-1 North Farmington (Class A-Region III) is in the driver's seat if it can finish the season at 7-2 or even 6-3. The Raiders, however, have Harrison and unbeaten South Lyon left on their schedule.

Of the twice-beaten teams, Plymouth Salem (Class AA-Region III) could find itself in position to make one of the four spots. The Rockets' schedule appears favorable for the remaining three games.

Meanwhile, twice-beaten Redford Union (Class A-Region II) has three formidable opponents the rest of the way including unbeaten Woodhaven, Waterford Moti (4-3) and Farmington (3-3).

A longshot could be twice-beaten Westland John Glenn (Class AA-Region II), which has reached the playoffs five of the past six years. The Rockets' remaining schedule looks favorable, but bonus points (based on your opponents' victories) may be hard to come by.

**THE PREDICTION RACE.** Meanwhile, adds to be all over with only three weeks left.  
Co-hort Dan O'Meara, who went 11-2 last week, widened his lead over yours truly.  
O'Meara is now 68-20 for the season, while Emons, who went 10-3 last week,

## grid predictions

tell to 68-28 overall.  
Here is a look at this week's action:

### FRIDAY'S GAMES

(all 7:30 p.m. unless noted)

Northville at Liv. Churchill: Word has it that Northville coach Darrel Schumacher through Farmington Harrison laid in a little thick last week (38-7 margin). The Mustangs (4-2) should be able to give all-state quarterback Ryan Hujak more time to throw this week against a Churchill team trying to snap a 15-game losing streak. The Chargers nearly got the monkey off their backs last week, losing 20-17 to Plymouth Canton in a tie-over time. PICKS: The Mustangs keep their lead; playoff hopes alive.

Farmington at Westland Glenn: The Falcons (2-3) started the season with promise and now face their third tough WLA-Lakes opponent in a row in Westland John Glenn (4-2). This could be the battle of linemen, as Matt Sosky leads Farmington, while Jason Hagelthorne spearheads Glenn. PICKS: Glenn, despite a less-than-impressive 10-0 win last week over wireless Walled Lake Central, does a number on Farmington.

W.L. Western at Ply. Canton: Western (3-3) weakened by Livonia Franklin last week, 13-12, while Canton (2-4) avoided a setback to Wesley Church. (Maybe the tomahawk chop is in order for the slugging Chiefs.) Both teams lack speed, so the battle in the trenches will be key. PICKS: Both like Western's chances.

Ply. Salem at W.L. Central: Host for Heisman? Well, Leon sure got Livonia Stevenson's vote last week after rushing for 192 yards in a 28-7 victory over the Spartans. The Rocks (4-2) are hot on a playoff track, while Central (0-9), which played Glenn tough last week, is on a path to nowhere. PICKS: The Rocks remain solid in their post-season quest.

Woodhaven at Redford Union (Kraft Field): A lot is at stake in this game — playoff spots and the Northwest Suburban League title for starters. RU (4-2) can score points, but can they stop anybody defensively? Unbeaten Woodhaven (6-0) has faced a cupcake schedule — Southgate (2-4), Riverdale Gabriel Richard (0-8), Dearborn Edsel Ford (2-4), Garden City (1-3), Dearborn (3-3) and Piquette (1-5). Is an upset in the making? PICKS: O'Meara says Wayne shows true grit, but Emons goes with Southgate.

Wayne Memorial at Southgate: The injury-riddled Zebras (3-3) have a lot of ill people, but are thin on the defense and offensive fronts. With quarterback Jason Westmore banged up, the Tilers (2-4) could be picking their chips. PICKS: O'Meara says Wayne shows true grit, but Emons goes with Southgate.

Avondale at Liv. Chardonville: It's homecoming for the Tilters, who broke a five-game losing streak last week, giving interim coach Russ McKenzie his first win, a 6-0 victory over Harbort. Chardonville, however, will definitely feel the sting of Brady Vobert and the unbeaten Yellow Jackets. PICKS: Avondale turns everything but the homecoming dance.

Dthrop Burgess at Saginaw Nowell: The Spartans (3-3) have won two straight, but face an unbeaten Saginaw Nowell (6-0) team that should win the Tri-Sectional Division of the Catholic League's A-B Division. Last year's meeting was a wild one, with Nowell coming out top 38-20. PICKS: Nowell is headed for the Davincione.

### SATURDAY'S GAMES

(all at 1 p.m. unless noted)

Liv. Franklin at Farm, Harrison: There's apparently no stopping the state's top-ranked team, even with two valuable Harrison performers — Greg Pascewicz and Darryl Light — out with injuries. Franklin (3-3), plagued by series of strange mishaps this season, is only 17 points away from being unbeaten. PICKS: Franklin will hold the point spread is much greater this week, as the Hawks' roar to their seventh straight triumph.

Liv. Stevenson at N. Farmington: The

Flowers (5-1) of the Lost Ark have returned, headed for a showdown with unbeaten Harrison for the Western Lakes Activities Association crown. It's week No. 6. North can score points in a hurry and Stevenson (3-3) should be no obstacle to an undisputed Lakes Division crown. PICKS: Nowell's (Mark) Temple of Doom hides the Spartans' secondary.

Garden City at Dearborn: The Cougars (1-5) put 27 points up on the board against a suspect RU defense last week. Meanwhile, the host Pioneers (3-3) failed from a 20-14 fourth-quarter deficit to beat rival Edsel Ford last week, 20-20, thanks to the running of Neil Wankam. RB Wins! PICKS: The Pioneers have a 4-0 day.

Metroville at Red, Thornton: The offense sputtered against last week for the Traction Eagles (1-1), who were clipped by Taylor Truman, 14-7. Metroville (2-4) was also beaten, but made a respectable showing against 5-1 Dearborn Heights Crestwood, losing the Tri-Sectional game 33-22. PICKS: Appears to be an even matchup on paper, but Metroville has the slight edge.

Mason City at Lutheran Westland (2 p.m.): The state's top-ranked team in Class C (10-0) with the Warriors last year. The home-field advantage won't help this time, either. It might as well be Redford CC coming to town instead of Rockport. Lutheran Westland (4-7) will have its hands full once again. PICKS: The Warriors look ahead to Wadston in week 10; B. both take the Crusaders.

Redford CC at Univ. of Detroit-Jessett (2 p.m.): The Cobbers (2-3) suffered a disappointing 12-7 loss last week to Madison Heights Bishop Foley, who unbeaten CC despite five turnovers, made Birmingham Brother Rice their "San Francisco Tree" in a resounding 35-7 win Sunday at the Boys' Show. PICKS: The Sharks will not overlook their seventh straight victory.

St. Agatha vs. Center Line St. Clement (1:30 p.m. at RU's Kraft Field): The Aggies (6-0) found a way to win last week, beating Westland Our Lady in overtime. St. Clement (5-1), led by quarterback Phil Doherty and tight end Dave Hawkins, was routed last week by Royal Oak Steve, 32-7. PICKS: The Aggies wrap up the C-Section of the Catholic League's C-D Division.

# BATTLE OF THE BLACK BELT STARS

One of the Nation's largest karate events with competitors from all over the world.



featuring:  
**COMPETITION**  
★ All-star Breaking Contests  
★ Weight Division Championship Fights  
★ Team Fighting Championship

**DEMONSTRATION**  
★ Multiple Enemy Fighting  
★ Weapon Skills and Fighting  
★ Karate Stunts

**WORLD RENOWNED KARATE TEAMS**  
John Paul Mitchell  
National Team

vs.  
DKT Rorce One

plus:  
**SEE THE REAL TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES**  
IN AND OUT OF COSTUME IN  
**COMPETITION AND DEMONSTRATION**

## Crusaders volleyball champions

Behind the setting of Penny Baker — who was named to the all-tournament team and also chosen the NAIA District 23 player of the week — Madonna University captured the three-team University of Michigan-Dearborn volleyball tournament Saturday.

It was the Lady Crusaders third tournament title this season. They defeated Aquinas College 15-6, 15-9, 15-2, and the host team 15-11, 15-5, 15-4, to improve their overall record to 28-9. Madonna is 5-0 in the district, tied with Northwood Institute for first. Northwood visits Madonna next Thursday (Oct. 24).

Dana Hicks-Finley, who tallied 27 kills, and Jenny Sladewski, with 21 digs, were also named to the all-tournament team. Tonia Smith had 21 kills in the tourney, Elena Oparka had 17 and Kristy McFadden collected 14; Maureen Paulin got 14 digs.

**SATURDAY  
OCT. 26  
8:00 pm  
COBO  
ARENA**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW: \$20, \$16, \$12 and \$10**  
at Cobo and Joe Louis Arena Box Offices and  
**CHARGE BY PHONE (313) 645-6666**  
Karate school discounts and special cabaret seating available by calling (313) 567-7474