

Sports

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Raiders finish 5-0 in Lakes

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

North Farmington won some big games to capture the Lakes Division football championship, but the next game will present the Raiders with their biggest challenge.

Farmington Hills Harrison will visit North at 1 p.m. Saturday to determine the Western Lakes Activities Association championship.

The Raiders take a six-game winning streak into their first meeting with Harrison in five years, having completed a sweep of the Lakes teams Saturday with a 31-7 victory over visiting Livonia Stevenson.

North finished 5-0 in the division and is 6-1 overall. The Spartans are 1-4 and 3-4.

"It's a thrill because I think the Lakes Division is one of the toughest in the state," North coach Jim O'Leary said.

"TWO TEAMS (Plymouth Salem and Westland John Glenn) are always going to be tough and to beat both is special. To go undefeated is even more special."

The Raiders and Harrison, considered by some the top team in the state, will play for the first time since the WLA title game in 1986. The Hawks are three-time defending league champs.

"They definitely have us outsize and outmanned," North tri-captain Mike Hamill said. "But this season has taught us that size and

strength aren't everything. It's also heart and determination."

The Raiders have a lot of those qualities, according to O'Leary, who once coached JV football at North with Harrison coach John Herrington.

"Their head coach can't run through the band as quick as I can," O'Leary said. "That's their only weakness."

North scored early against Stevenson after Rob Chuba recovered a fumble on the opening kickoff. Mark Temple passed 24 yards to Brian Lee two plays later for a touchdown and 7-0 lead at 10:49.

BUT THE Raiders were stung when Stevenson's Jason Dreger returned an interception 70 yards to tie the score early in the second quarter.

North bounced back with TDs on its next two possessions to take a 21-7 halftime lead. Temple, who had his first three completions go for TDs, passed 31 yards to Mike Jehle and 24 yards to Todd Anderson, who turned a screen pass on a broken play into a TD.

"They made a commitment to stop the run, and we decided if we were going to score we had better put the ball in the air," O'Leary said.

"That took the momentum away from them. If a team that is struggling is in the game, it will play hard. Once you get down you tend to get discouraged, and it looked like that happened to them."

Temple ended up 4-of-7 for 92 yards. Despite the defensive effort of the Spartans, Anderson

consistently got 4 yards a carry, finishing with 114 and a touchdown on 25 attempts.

"We didn't have good coverage, we let kids get behind us," Stevenson coach Jack Reardon said. "(Temple) had a lot of time to throw the ball, too. You should never let people get behind you, but by the same token you have to apply some pressure."

THE RAIDERS kept Stevenson in check with their defense, holding the Spartans to 36 yards rushing and 117 in total offense. Back-up quarterback John Rarog completed six of 12 passes for 57 yards.

Stevenson didn't cross midfield until midway in the third quarter. The Spartans had two of their six first downs in the first half, recovering a fumbled punt for one.

"Their defense was good, but you should be able to run the ball a bit," Reardon said. "We never sustain blocks, we don't stay on our blocks long enough."

North went ahead 28-7 in the third quarter, using the first 7:22 with a 14-play 73-yard drive. Anderson carried eight times and finished it with a 2-yard run.

Adam Chalmers kicked four extra points and capped the scoring with a 27-yard field goal after three 15-yard penalties against Stevenson moved the Raiders into scoring position in the fourth quarter.

Harrison hammers Franklin, 44-7

Farmington Hills Harrison overpowered visiting Livonia Franklin 44-7 Saturday to win its seventh consecutive football game and remain unbeaten.

The Hawks finish 5-0 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association, winning the title for the 10th straight year. Franklin is 2-3 and 3-4.

Harrison, the top-rated team in Michigan, will play at North Farmington for the WLA championship Saturday. The cross-town rivals last played for the title in 1986 with the Hawks winning.

Senior tailback Roy Granger rushed for three touchdowns and returned another for a TD to pace the Hawks, who led 30-0 at halftime and 44-0 after three quarters.

Granger, who had 138 yards on 14 carries, scored the first three TDs on runs of 15, 4 and 18 yards. Following an interception and 30-yard return by Granger, Andy Fitzpatrick tossed a 10-yard scoring pass to Duante Anderson.

Fitzpatrick and Anderson also connected for a two-point conversion, and fullback Mike Pesel ran for another. Ben Plinsky kicked two of his four extra points in the first half.

In the third quarter, Fitzpatrick, who completed six of 12 passes for 50 yards, threw a 7-yard TD pass to Matt Gordon, and Granger returned a punt 75 yards for a score with 22 seconds left.

The Patriots scored midway in the fourth quarter when fullback Aaron Shakerian (87 yards on 16 carries) dashed 32 yards and Dave Little kicked the extra point.

Anderson and Gordon caught three passes apiece. The Hawks outgained Franklin 215-127, rushing for 156 yards. Harrison scoring drives covered 60, 35, 46, 10 and 58 yards, respectively.

The Patriots had 90 yards on the ground. Little was 3-of-22 passing for 37 yards.

Anderson and Keye Smith also had interceptions for Harrison, Keith Roberts and Jeff Hunt for Franklin.

Glenn tops Falcons

By Neal Zipser
staff writer

The ghosts and goblins weren't out yet, nor were the familiar chants of "trick or treat" heard Friday night in Westland.

But Farmington decided to give John Glenn its Halloween treat a couple weeks early as the Falcons committed six turnovers in their 28-6 loss at Klonka Field.

With the victory, the Rockets improved to 5-2 overall, 3-2 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association, and kept their playoff hopes alive. Farmington fell to 3-4 and 2-3.

The Falcons turned the ball over four times in the first half, but Glenn capitalized for only six points. However, quarterback Terry Hewer and the rest of the Rockets came alive in the second half.

Hewer completed all four of his pass attempts and guided two touch-

down drives to give the Rockets control of the game. He completed seven of 12 attempts overall for 84 yards.

"TERRY PLAYED his best half of the season," Glenn coach Chuck Gordon said. "He has struggled at times this season, but he stepped it up tonight when we needed him to."

"I wasn't disappointed in the offense at halftime. I was more disappointed in myself," said Hewer, who also punted four times for a 50-yard average.

"I knew I wasn't performing to my ability. I decided to concentrate more and just have fun out there. The offensive line was tremendous and were Farmington down."

It was Glenn that gave Farmington the first gift, as senior Rob Cavagnoli recovered a Tad Quattlander fumble. The Falcons returned the fa-

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SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Lakes showdown

Emily Shively finished second in a close race with A.J. Kofitnik Thursday as the North Farmington girls lost the Lakes Division title to Livonia Stevenson. See story on Page 3B.

Marlins accept charity in cage victory

Farmington Hills Mercy shot only 50 percent at the free throw line Thursday night, but the Marlins got enough points there to beat host Flint Southwestern in girls basketball.

Mercy outscored the Lady Colts 17-4 at the charity stripe and came away with a 45-40 victory. The Marlins attempted 34 free throws, Southwestern seven.

"We certainly didn't get homered, but it gives you an indication how they came at us," Mercy coach Larry Baker said. "They usually play a wide-open style — and they did. They played very clean but aggressive."

The Marlins played more cautiously since they didn't have a full complement of

healthy players. Dana Wade missed the game because of an ankle injury, and Valire Jones and Kathleen Berrigan were battling the flu.

"So we had to be a little hands-off on defense, which accounts for the disparity in fouls," Baker said. "I only kept 10 girls this year. I looked down the bench, and it wasn't very long tonight."

Laure DeMattia led the Marlins (9-4) with 17 points, which included 7-of-13 free throw shooting. Berrigan added nine, Marshelle Brooks eight and Katie Heffernan six.

"We wanted this game to help us at this point in the season," Baker said, "and I was pleased to see a little more scoring from

those two (Brooks and Heffernan)."

Berrigan, the point guard, and Mary Bloniewicz were the top rebounders with 12 apiece.

Najah Jackson scored a game-high 20 points for the Lady Colts (7-7), including three three-point field goals.

Mercy had quarter leads of 18-11, 28-23 and 33-22.

W.L. CENTRAL 56, FARMINGTON 47: The host Vikings scored to a big first-quarter lead and stayed ahead of Farmington, which played well once it got on track.

Central jumped in front 17-4 in the opening period, but the Falcons outscored the Vikings 43-41 in the next three quarters.

"We just started off slow," Farmington coach Brian Swinheart said. "Then we played even with them the rest of the way."

"We've started slow the last couple games. I don't know what it is, but we're going to try and correct it."

Tammy Allen scored a season-high 22 points, including 10 in the fourth quarter when the Falcons had a 16-11 advantage. She also had 12 rebounds. Becky Washneck had 11 points and 13 rebounds.

Jenny Crach had 16 points and Bridgett Norris 11 for the Vikings, who led 32-16 at halftime and 47-21 after three quarters.

Farmington is 1-6 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 2-11 overall. Central is 2-5 and 6-7.

W.L. WESTERN 57, HARRISON 52: The host

Hawks failed to hold the lead after going ahead 30-48 with three minutes left in the game.

"That's the second time that's happened to us," Harrison coach Pete Mantyla said. "We're not making good decisions in close games. It's a combination of lack of experience and aggressiveness."

Heather Hopkins had 26 points to lead all scorers, and teammate Krista Snow finished with 10.

The Hawks were down 11-2 in the first quarter but came back to get within 15-12, 33-26 and 45-44 at the end of the next three.

"We're staying in games, we're competing but we're coming up short," Mantyla said.

Dawn Godfrey scored seven of her 18 points in the last quarter for the Warriors. Jennifer Gross had 16.

Raiders victorious in swim dual meet

Sherril Richardson and Carrie Worthen had four first places each Thursday when North Farmington whipped Westland John Glenn 128-53 in girls swimming.

Both won two individual events and were on two winning relay teams. Richardson was first in the 200-yard freestyle (2:07.91) and 500 freestyle (5:50.90), and Worthen had wins in the individual medley (2:25.35) and breaststroke (1:13.16).

Erica Vincent, Worthen, Shannon O'Brien and Becky Ashburn won the medley relay in 2:05.22. It was Ashburn, Diana Brown, Karrie Kranz and Richardson winning the 200 freestyle relay (1:52.54), and Richardson, O'Brien, Kranz and Worthen combined to win the 400 freestyle relay (4:04.55).

Other relay swimmers also had individual victories — Vincent in the 50 freestyle (29.39), O'Brien in the butterfly (1:07.79) and Kranz in the 100 freestyle (55.83). The latter was a state-qualifying time.

North's Mandy Terrell won the diving competition with a school record 226.10 points.

The Raiders are 2-0 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association and 2-3 overall.

North has a meet at Dearborn Tuesday and will swim against Farmington Thursday at North.

JILL HAWKINS won two events and helped Farmington win the 400 freestyle relay Thursday in a 118-68 loss to Plymouth Salem.

Hawkins swam the 50 freestyle in 26.62 and the 100 freestyle in 57.13. Hawkins, Kim Seed, Jill Benivenga and Becky Weary put together a 4:00.24 time in the relay.

Farmington's remaining first place was taken in the breaststroke where Maureen Gerwatowski finished in 1:18.20.

STACEY KRAUSE and Dana Dixon had individual swimming wins and

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SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Tournament play begins

Brenton Zinn of North Farmington stumbles and rolls over Farmington opponent Brian Afferbaugh in a soccer game played earlier this season. Postseason play begins today with district tournament competition. See Page 2B for tournament pairings involving Farmington and other area teams.