

Sports

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Hawks cap 9-0 season

By Neal Zipser
staff writer

When Toledo native Joe Paika played football at Eastern Michigan University, he heard all about the football tradition at Farmington Hills Harrison.

Now coaching the Toledo Central Catholic team, Paika saw first hand the Hawks deserve that reputation as host Harrison rolled to a 33-7 victory Saturday.

The Hawks, ranked No. 1 in Class BB, capped their regular season with a 9-0 record and will be host for regional playoff games the next two weeks. The first-round opponent will be either Dearborn Heights Crestwood or Mount Clemens Clintondale.

CC, the first out-of-state team the Hawks have played, finished its season at 4-6.

"I was worried coming into the game, because I didn't know that much about Toledo," Harrison coach John Herrington said.

THE GAME also marked the regular-season finale for 22 seniors, including running back Roy Granger, who scored all five Harrison touchdowns.

Granger, who rushed for 183 yards on 29 carries, scored on runs of 4, 2, 1 and 15 yards as well as a 40-yard screen pass.

"We came into the game worried because we didn't know how well we could run against them," Granger said. "They have a good linebackers, but our line did well and wore them down."

Coaches asked me who we were playing and I told them Harrison. Paika said, "They all told me about Granger. He's a burner. You know he'll get his one touchdown, but you hope he won't get too many more."

Granger and a strong northern wind were the two factors that did the Fighting Irish in. Both teams struggled to move the ball against the wind, but Granger got the Hawk offense going in the first quarter.

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RU, trying to make a bid for the fourth and final state playoff berth in Class A-Region III, finished the year at 5-4. It appears that Detroit Chadsey (6-3), North Farmington (6-3), Ypsilanti (7-2) and Woodhaven (8-1) are all in.

Link's score was not deception, according to Farmington coach Bernie Call, who called it "an alert play by our quarterback."

"This was the type of game where if you did something wrong, it worked out, and when you did something right, it would backfire," said Call, whose team improved to 4-5 this season after finishing 2-7 in his first year.

On third-and-goal from the RU 8, Link took a delayed snap from center Jonathan Sikosky, who stood up, freeing both sides of the ball at the line of scrimmage.

There was no whistle on the play.

"HE SNAPPED THE ball on the wrong count, and everybody stood up," Call said. "(Link) just took off and ran with it."

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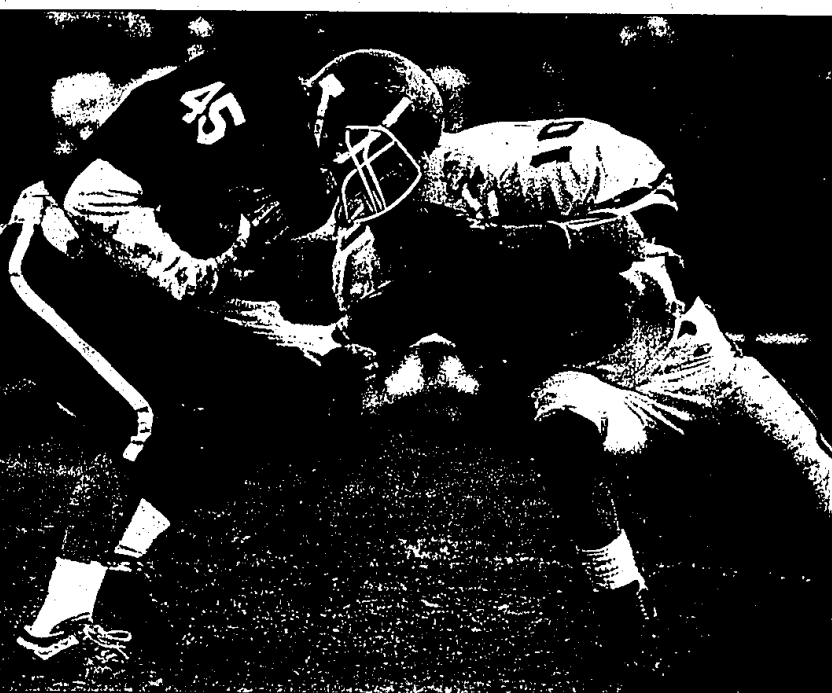
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Farmington's Ryan Adams and Redford Union's Scott Björke butt heads in season finale Saturday. Chris Marting led the Fal-

cons with 75 rushing yards on 21 carries, and Adams had 51 yards on 16 attempts.

Link TD wins for Falcons

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Farmington High played spoiler in its season football finale Saturday, ending Redford Union's post-season playoff hopes with a 13-9 victory on a brutally cold and blustery day.

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"I'd have to see the tape, but I can't believe something was not there," McGowan said. "But we didn't catch the ball and we had trouble up front. They were playing

us to stop the run, so we went to our passing game.

"The (cold and windy) conditions favored them the whole game. They really took away every phase of our offense."

Farmington's defense, sparked by linebacker Matt Sikosky, who had six solo tackles and two assists, limited RU to 55 yards on the ground.

RU quarterback Brian Theis also had a tough day, completing five of 19 for 50 yards. He was picked off once by Corby Laverty and had two punts blocked by Jonathan Sikosky.

Theis completed only one pass in the second half, a 14-yarder to Paul Nowak late in the third quarter, and on that play the ball squirted loose and Farmington's Dave Monge recovered, ultimately leading to the game-winning TD.

RU, HOWEVER, had its chances. Link, forced to punt deep in his own end, took a safety to make it 13-9 with 1:45 left.

The Falcons punted and RU moved the ball to the Farmington 21 on a 17-yard run by Theis, followed by a 9-yard run by Pat Mueller.

The Panthers turned the ball over on downs at the 22 with 18 seconds left.

"The defense really played well and we took the safety because we felt they could hold them," Call said. "John Bechtel, our defensive coordinator, did a great job this season with our defense. That's why we're in games."

Farmington scored on its first possession of the game, marching 61 yards in 12 plays, capped by Link's 3-yard pass to 6-foot-4, 224-pound senior tight end Jay Jensen. Monge's leaping 28-yard catch from Link kept the drive alive. (Mike Giese added the point after.)

RU came back late in the first quarter when Kirk Van Husen recovered



Matt April of Farmington breaks up a pass intended for RU's Paul Nowak.

INSIDE:
Street Scene, page 3B

S. Lyon denies North

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

North Farmington ended the regular football season with a loss, but the Raiders won't have to wait long for a chance to right themselves.

The Raiders will be in the Class A playoffs but not with the kind of momentum they had hoped to have.

For the second consecutive week, the Raiders suffered a near-miss defeat when visiting South Lyon made a last-minute stand on its own goal line to preserve a 12-7 win over North.

"It doesn't change how I feel about what we can do (in the playoffs)," North coach Jim O'Leary said. "I think we can play with anybody if we play all out the whole game. We have to play at maximum level."

The Raiders, who are 6-3 and will probably play at Ypsilanti in the first round Saturday afternoon, didn't do that in the first half. A costly fumble, penalties and a gambling Lions offense put North in a 12-0 halftime hole.

O'LEARY SAID the 20-14, overtime loss to Farmington Hills Harrison a week earlier had a greater effect on the Raiders than he expected.

"We had no intensity, no enthusiasm, in the first half. We were lucky to be down only 12-0. We were very unemotional. I thought we'd be fired up for this."

South Lyon also made the Class A playoffs, though in a different region than the Raiders. The Kensington Valley Conference champs finished 9-0, but North was close to spoiling their perfect season.

The Raiders had a chance to win the game but failed to score on fourth-and-goal at the South Lyon 3-yard line with 46 seconds remaining. The Lions stopped North tailback Todd Anderson at the 1.

"That's going to be the one that everyone remembers — the goal-line stand that ensured the undefeated season," South Lyon coach Bob Scheloske said.

North began its drive at its own 33 with 7 1/2 minutes left. Anderson, who had 149 yards on 33 attempts, carried the ball on all but one of the 14 plays.

"YOU DON'T second guess yourself," O'Leary said. "We ran the ball all the way down there, and they didn't stop us. You gotta believe you can score from 3 yards out."

The Raiders were the dominant team in the second half, running the ball on South Lyon, which controlled play the same way in the first half.

The Lions never threw a pass and had all of their 199 yards on the ground, 151 coming in the first half. South Lyon converted five of seven times on fourth down and punted once. Tailback Bill Proctor had 93 yards and fullback Ken Nelson 48.

"We feel our strength is our offensive line and our running game," Scheloske said. "If people want to go toe-to-toe with us, we'll go toe-to-toe."

"Given the situation with the wind, we felt it was in our interest to run the ball and make it a quick game. By making it a quick game, we wanted to give them as few possessions as possible."

The Lions drove 71 yards with the opening kickoff to take a 6-0 lead on Gary Landrum's 11-yard run.

SOUTH LYON capitalized early in the second quarter when it recovered a fumble at the North 4. Quarterback Jason Williams was unsuccessful on three straight keepers be-

Falcons, Harrison swimmers victorious

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field in the 50 and 100 freestyle races with times of 26.68 and 58.09.

Weary and Hawkins comprised the second half of the 200 freestyle relay, which started with Jill Benivenga and Emily Otsuji and finished with a 1:53.70 time.

Benivenga, Seed, Weary and Hawkins combined to win the 400 freestyle relay in 4:10.74.

Farmington's remaining first place was achieved in diving where Nicole Gerwatoski scored 165.10 points.

STACEY KRAUSE just missed a pool record in the backstroke and helped Harrison win two relays.

Despite not having the benefit of blocks,

Krause came close to former Livonia Stevenson swimmer Sheila Taormina's backstroke record of 1:04.10, winning the event in 1:04.37.

Krause was the leadoff person on the 200 medley and 400 freestyle relays. Veronica Forberger, Cassie O'Sullivan and Lisa Schaner followed her on both relays. The Hawks swam the medley in 2:07.05 and the freestyle in 4:10.49.

Forberger also won the butterfly (1:11.15) and O'Sullivan the 100 freestyle (1:02.39).

Harrison had other individual wins from Dana Dixon in the 200 freestyle (2:15.87), Jenny Domino in the individual medley (2:33.55), Elaine Trager in diving with 221.10 points and Wendy Leland in the 500

freestyle (6:17.2).

Dixon and Leland helped the Hawks win the 200 freestyle relay along with Melissa Walker and Nicole Lenon. The Harrison quartet finished in 1:58.61.

LIVONIA STEVENSON'S Holly Palmeri and Mandi Falk won two events each Thursday to lead the Spartans in their 111-75 win over North Farmington in a WLA Lakes Division meet.

Stevenson is 4-0 in the Lakes Division and 7-1 overall. North is 3-5 overall.

Palmeri won the 200 freestyle (2:06.02) and the 100 freestyle (58.74), and she also swam on the winning 200 freestyle relay (1:49.29). Falk, meanwhile, won the 50 freestyle (28.36) and the breaststroke (1:09.83),

and she also swam the first leg of the 200 freestyle relay.

The other individual winner for Stevenson was Jill Knapp, who won the individual medley (2:32.33). Knapp swam the first leg of the winning 400 freestyle relay (5:56.13).

North had four individual winners and also captured the 200 medley relay. North winners included Mandy Terrell, diving (2:17.50), Kari Kroschel, butterfly (1:03.25), Sherri Richardson, 500 freestyle (5:31.31), and Shannon O'Brien, 100 backstroke (1:08.30).

O'Brien also led off the winning 200 medley relay, which came in at 2:02.47. Carrie Worthen, Kraus and Richardson also contributed to the win.