

# Shamrocks get new playoff foe

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

The Redford Catholic Central football team has had to accelerate its practice schedule this week to get ready for yet another speedy opponent.

CC, originally scheduled to face rugged, yet not-so-fast Dearborn Fordson in Saturday's Class AA first round playoff game, found out otherwise Tuesday night.

The new opponent is cat-quick Pontiac Central, which backed into the playoffs after it was confirmed Detroit Mumford used an ineligible player and had to forfeit its last game and drop out of the playoff picture.

While the opponent has changed, the site and time have not.

CC (6-1 overall), No. 1 rated in Region III, will play No. 4 Pontiac Central (7-2 overall) at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Pontiac's Winder Stadium.

Fordson, originally rated No. 4 in Region III moves up to the third spot vacated by Mumford and plays No. 2 Detroit Henry Ford.

As of Tuesday night, CC coach Tom Mach didn't have a clue about Pontiac Central, having spent the first two days of the week worrying about Fordson. CC and Pontiac Central exchanged films Wednesday.

"I DON'T even know what color they wear," Mach said. "Today we had a regular practice with the idea we were playing Fordson. When we got the field I got a call saying we might be playing Pontiac Central. It should be interesting, anyway. We'll have to pull out our man-

## Hawks send apology to CC football squad

An open letter to Catholic Central:

This letter is in regards to the events that occurred on Nov. 3 after your football game with DePue.

We would like to apologize to all the players, coaches and fans for our inappropriate and unacceptable behavior. At Harrison, we pride ourselves on our sportsmanship and class, something that we did not exhibit on Nov. 3.

So with this we would once again like to apologize and wish the football team the best of luck in the state playoffs.

Sincerely,  
The Harrison football team

(Editor's note: The above letter concerns an incident that occurred Sunday night at the Silverdome following Redford Catholic Central's 16-15 loss to Detroit DePue in the Catholic League championship game. Members of the Observer sports staff witnessed Farmington Hills Harrison players directing verbal taunts at CC players as they left the field. Observer staff writer Steve Kowalski referred to this in his subsequent story, which appeared Monday in the Farmington and Wayne County editions of the Observer.)

to-man pass patterns again (to face a quicker team).

Junior tailback Louis Adams leads Pontiac Central with 1,033 yards on 97 carries but the Chiefs biggest threat is senior Khan Powell, who won the Oakland County 100 meter championship with a time of 10.5 seconds. Khan, a former flanker who lines up in the Central backfield, has more than 1,600 all-purpose yards and scored 15 touchdowns.

Pontiac Central's offensive line

averages about 237 pounds, which is comparable to CC's, but the Chiefs will boast the biggest player, Xavier Bond (6-3 1/4, 275) on the field.

Central doesn't pass often, but last Saturday quarterback Pauquai completed eight-of-nine passes in a 40-20 win over Pontiac Northern. The Chiefs faced some hard luck last year, failing to make the AA playoffs despite an 8-1 record, so coach Irv Speaks said he's not ashamed of "backing in" this time.

Pontiac Central outscored opponents, 223-91, and its only two losses have come by a combined five points. Pontiac Central plays in the Saginaw Valley League, which qualified four teams for post-season play.

"WE'RE pretty much hung up on our stuff and thought we were out of it, but now we've got to get our uniforms out again," Speaks said Tuesday night. "You've got to figure God is on our side, to have luck and get in this way. If He's going to let us in the back door, you have to figure we've got Him riding on our shoulder, so we win as well like the whole thing."

Of course, that's easier said than done with an opponent like CC.

CC's 16-game winning streak ended Sunday with a 16-15 loss to Detroit St. Martin DePorres in the Catholic League championship, but fullback/defensive lineman Dan Gusoff said the Shamrocks are more determined than ever.

"I think we're set for the playoffs," said Gusoff, who is second on the team with 338 yards on 97 carries and seven touchdowns. "We had practice today and everything is back to normal. I think we'll win the state championship again, there's no doubt in my mind. The coaches know it, the players know it, we've just got to do it."

CC's outscored opponents, 222-54, and its closest rival by tailback Jeff Tibaldi, who leads with eight TDs and gained 895 yards (5.2 average). Linebackers Joe Herman and Gary Stegall have 83 and 78 tackles, respectively, and Joe Lopez leads the team with six sacks.

## Faiders return to grid playoffs

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Ypsilanti is in the playoffs for the third time in six years. The Braves lost to Redford Catholic Central in Class AA last year and were beaten by Westland John Glenn in 1988.

THE BRAVES graduated everyone on defense and nine of 11 offensive starters, but they have won their last six games after starting 1-2.

"It was a matter of maturing, getting people in the right places and growing up a little bit," Ypsilanti coach Bill Kohn said. "At the beginning of the year, we weren't particularly confident, but that came with maturity."

The Braves are a running team like North, but they operate from the wing. Instead of the I-formation, emphasizing the fullback, Ypsilanti uses a multiple-50 front.

"We're a little more diverse than we have been," Kohn said. "We're like North Farmington. We keep the ball on the ground and eat up the clock, but we're very capable of passing the ball if the defense makes it necessary."

Ypsilanti had an all-state back in Vardell Davis now at Eastern Michigan, but 200-pound Bryant Hargrow has done well as his replacement, rushing for 900 yards in seven games.

"He's the guy you gotta stop, and we have every intention of doing that," O'Leary said. "He's not going to run away from people. He's going to run over you."

HARGROW HASN'T played the last two weeks because of an ankle injury, but sophomore Trevor Heyward (6-1, 175) took his place last week and rushed 38 times for 242 yards and two touchdowns in his first varsity start.

"We're gearing for a fullback," O'Leary said. "It makes no difference who is there, because both kids are good athletes. Unless they change their offensive philosophy, they're going to give it to the fullback."

Todd Anderson has gained 1,087 yards and scored 10 touchdowns on 160 carries for North. Fullback Jon Sturges rushed for 238 yards and caught 11 passes for 222.

Senior quarterback Mark Temple has thrown for 636 yards and 11 touchdowns, and his top receivers are Mike Jehle (8-192-5) and Brian Lee (15-148-2).

Ypsilanti senior quarterback Dorell Brooks (6-1, 200) can throw

the ball a long way and is a heady player," according to Kohn. Senior Dayrell Williams (5-11, 185) is the halfback, and the top receivers are seniors Marvin Wilson (6-2, 190) and Devaughn Smith (5-10, 155).

The Braves have an all-junior offensive line with the exception of guard Carter Vaughn (6-0, 190) and tight end James Thomas (6-0, 210). The tackles are Jay Holland (6-0, 265) and Eric Hummel (6-1, 240).

"WE'RE NOT accustomed to facing big people," O'Leary said. "Quickness is important, too, and I think that's where our strength is. Our down people get off the ball quickly. You can't block them if you can't catch them."

Kohn said the Raiders might have the best defense they will face, but the Braves are quick and aggressive on defense, too. Ypsilanti uses a multiple-50 front.

"We like to move around, and I think we move to the ball very well," Kohn said. "The fact we run to the ball is a team strength."

Nogsgard Vip Johnson (5-8, 175) is an exceptionally quick athlete, O'Leary said. One of the most impressive defenders is junior tackle Richard Bertrand (6-3, 260).

Thomas doubles as a defensive tackle, and Vaughn also plays linebacker. Hasan Patterson (5-10, 160) is the leader in the secondary.

Linebacker Mike Hamill is North's leading tackler, and tackle Vern Ratliff (5-10, 225) leads the team in sacks and tackles for losses.

"(Ratliff) is solid as a rock," O'Leary said. "You just don't knock him off the ball."

Both teams have excellent kickers. North's Adam Chalmers and Ypsilanti's Chuck Fuller have made five field goals apiece, ranging from the mid 20s to more than 40 yards. Fuller kicked a 42-yarder with 12 seconds left to beat Adrian and turn Ypsilanti's season around, according to Kohn.

## O'Meara reigns in grid contest

The Observer football prediction contest ended with Dan O'Meara winning for the fourth time in five years.

O'Meara was 9-4 last week and fellow sports editor Brad Emmons 8-5. The final tally for O'Meara was 100-31, for Emmons 94-37.

## Harrison focuses on stopping Reynolds

HARRISON		
32	Brother Rice	0
21	Plymouth Salem	12
37	Walled Lake Western	6
48	Plymouth Canton	0
14	Livonia Churchill	7
39	Norhtville	0
44	Livonia Franklin	14
20	North Farmington	7
33	Toledo Catholic	3
322	9-0-0	53

CRESTWOOD		
28	Garden City	12
20	Redford Thurston	0
29	Taylor Truman	0
27	Taylor Kennedy	7
16	Allen Park	39
33	Melvindale	22
42	Taylor Center	14
42	Dorn Hts. Annapolis	13
20	Dorn Hts. Robichaud	7
257	8-1-0	114

**'One factor that comes into play is strength. We're going to match up pretty good, but they have tremendous strength. You can tell they've been working out.'**

— Floyd Carter  
Crestwood football coach

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rison was anticipating a playoff rematch with Mount Clemens Clinton and hadn't scouted the Chargers, but the Dragons lost their last game and dropped below Crestwood, runner-up to Allen Park in the Tri-River League.

"I'm still kind of in shock," Carter said. The Chargers needed three of four Clintonale opponents to lose Saturday and it happened. "I didn't know we were in until I got a call from John Herrington."

"It's an honor to make the playoffs, and it's a great honor to draw Harrison. We're going to practice hard, play the game and enjoy it."

The Chargers also have to stop Granger, who has 1,181 yards and 25 touchdowns. He is averaging 7 1/4 yards per carry after rushing for 183 yards and scoring five TDs in the season finale against Toledo Central Catholic.

"Reynolds plays safety so it'll be a good race if Roy gets loose in their secondary," Herrington said.

HARRISON is a good passing team, too. Andy Fitzpatrick has thrown for more than 1,000 yards and 14 touchdowns.

"I think we've played some pretty good defense," Carter said. "Robichaud had scored a lot of points, but they had the ball first-and-goal at the 2 and didn't score. It's going to be tough against Harrison because they do so many things well."

Crestwood runs from the wing-T offense and frequently pulls its guards, using them like fullbacks, Carter said. But he doesn't expect Reynolds to run through the Harrison defense, which has allowed only 53 points, like he has some others.

"We're going to have to execute and our kids are going to have to block better than they have all year," Carter said. "Their kids find the ball real well and close the hole."

Quarterback Denny Kaczmarczyk (6-2, 185) has completed 28 of 51 passes for 550 yards and nine TDs. The top receiver is Bryant Markowicz (6-7, 190), who has 10 receptions for 264 yards and five TDs.

The Chargers occasionally give the ball to fullback Jim Bates (6-2, 230). He has 535 yards and four TDs on 85 attempts.

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"WE DIDN'T throw the ball a lot, but when teams zeroed in on Chuck we were able to run action and throw it," Carter said. "(Bates) is a load and he runs up in there hard. We'd break it inside when they thought we're going to run Chuck around the corner."

Harrison opponents have never failed to mention the size of the Hawks, but they might have met their match in Crestwood.

Carter believes tight end Mark

Stefanovski (6-6, 295) is a Division I prospect, and the tackles are George Spanopoulos (6-1, 250) and Steve Pellitani (6-1, 230). The center is Pete Spanopoulos (6-1, 210), the guards David Crispin (6-1, 210) and Alex Horvath (5-9, 150). Crispin is also an inside linebacker and the leading tackler.

"One factor that comes into play is strength," Carter said, adding there are no football or weight training classes at Crestwood. "We're going to match up pretty good, but they have tremendous strength. You can tell they've been working out."

A drawback for the Chargers is the fact most of their players stay on the field. They use 13 and have only 24.

"We've been very fortunate we haven't had anyone get hurt to the point he could not play," Carter said.

Harrison seniors Dan Hight (cornerback) and Greg Piscopink (knee ligaments) are not ready to return yet. Hight practiced Monday without any contact. Piscopink was to be fitted for a brace this week and is starting to run.

"We've done pretty well without them, but it would add a tremendous dimension to our team," Herrington said. "Hight flying out there boosted everyone in practice. He's such a fiery competitor."

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