# Jaguars familiar Harrison foe

The calendar says it's November of 1991, and the high school football playoffs are still in the

the high achool football playoffs are still in the regional phase.

So that means Farmington Harrison and Allen Park are due to play each other again. The biannual, odd-year meetings have become a tradition for the perennial powers.

For the third time in five seasons, the Hawks and Jaguars will cross pathes in post-season play at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Harrison is ranked No. 1 in Class BB, Allen Park No. 6.

The Hawks won 2:9-6 in the 1987 playoff opener and 2:8-6 in the 1987 regional final. Those games were played at Allen Park, but this year they play at Harrison.

"Every time we play Farmington Harrison they give us a good snanking." Allen Park coach Ed

at Harrison.
"Every time we play Farmington Harrison they
give us a good spanking," Allen Park coach Ed
Bellas said. "Why wouldn't (Harrison coach John
Herrington) think he's going to spank us again."

HERRINGTON MIGHT think his coaching friend is setting a trap, lying in wait to ambush Harrison, especially since Bellas has labeled the '91 team his best at Allen Park.

"He told me this would be his best team and he

sure hoped they got a shot at playing us," Herring-ton said.

ton said.
"When I was at the all-star game with John, he told me it was the best team he ever had, too," Bellas said, adding Herrington doesn't like to

### football

compare teams and risk offending alumni. "I don't have to be concerned with that. I'm going to tell you — this is the best team I've ever had."

A win would give the Allen Park program a tremendous boost. To go anywhere in the playors a tremendous boost. To go anywhere in the playors a word of the program and the pro

THE JAGUARS HAVE done well in that regard under Bellas, who began coaching at Allen Park in 1956 and came out of retirement in 1968 to restore the program.

The Jaguars are 60-12 in the regular season since his return and have qualified for the playoffs four of the last five years. Allen Park also has won the Tri-River League championship five consecutive years, six of the last eight. With a junior-dominated team last year, the Jaguars were looking ahead to a rematch with

Harrison when they were upset by Auburn Hills Avoadale in the first round, according to Bellas. Despite having the "best group of kids we've every assembled," Bellas doesn't know if that will be enough for Allen Park to finally get the better of Harrison.

of Harrison.
"I never go into a game thinking the kids will lose, but you have to realistic," he said. "We're going up against the best in the state.
"This is my best. If we lose, I gave it my best shot. There's no embarrassment in losing to them. Two good teams will be on the field, and the best team is going to win."

THE HAWKS WILL try to gain their sixth

THE HAWKS WILL try to gain their aixth straight regional championship and semifinal berth, and Herrington thinks that alone should motivate a team. "I don't think you need all those things as incentive," he said. "They might add a little extra hype to the game, but being in the state playoffs should be emough incentive."

be enough incentive."
The teams played one common opponent, Dearborn Heights Crestwood. Harrison won 49-6 and Alien Park 39-16, but the Jaguars had two touchdowns called back in their game.
They seem evenly matched in terms of points, too. Alien Park averages slightly more on offense, but the links have allowed a little less on de-

Bellas said Crestwood coach Floyd Carter told him 'Coach: I've played both of you, and the team that makes the fewest mistakes will win.'

# Allen Park boasts balanced offense

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Continued from Page 1
also be concerned about Allen Park's multiple formations. Herrington said he charted \$3 variations from which the Jaguars ran 250 plays. Only To-leto Central Catholic came close to matching such diversity.

Bellas said the Jaguars have been doing that, running anything from a single wing to no backs, for the last legit years and control to the control of th

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'We've forced a lot of teams into bad situations. If we get scored on in the first series, we'll come back and play hard.'

- John Herrington Harrison coach

would be bad enough but there's four of them. We'll just get out of their

would be bad enough nut there's wise that way."

of them. We'll just get out of their way."

Linebacker Mike Peset (6-2, 205) heads the Harrison defense with 105 the period of the peri

they'll recognize what a fine player he is."

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We offer the finest selection of downhill & cross country ski equipment and

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defensive back last year. Coach (Sleve) Dollaway recommended we try him at end, and he has been out-standing at that position." Senior Dan Hight returned last week after missing five games with a broken collarbone and will start at

Senior Dain right returned with a broken collarbone and will start at which a collarbone and will start at swingback and safety. Senior Greg Piscopink (knee) dressed for practice Monday and was to be evaluated on a day-to-day but will be a start was to allowed more TD in each of its last five games but will have to stop Roy Granger, who has scored 31 this year. He rushed for 264 yards last week and has 1,413 overall, averaging 7.9 per carry.

Bellas calls Granger "another Houdin" — an elusive, escape artist as was Coleman — but also is wary of the passing threat posed by Andy Fitzpatrick, who has completed 74 of 140 passes for 1,314 yards and 19 TDs. Duante Anderson (18-394-4), Matt Gordon (13-341-5) and Granger (18-308-6) are his top receivers. Granger has gotten many of his yards behind the blocking of two-way senior Jason Glockrefe (8-2, 256), who "has been outstanding at clifensive tackle," Herrington said. "I think he's best at that position, and we run over him a lot. People know we're going to run over him, but we do it anyway."

## Rice meets Ramblers

year."
Fraser, which qualified as the third-best team in Region IV, is making its second playoff appearance. The Ramblers were Class A runners up in 1981, losing the champlonship game to Escanaba, 1868.

16-6.

By contrast, this is Rice's eighth

set-season appearance. The War-

By contrast, this is Rice's eighth post-season appearance. The Warriors enter the game as defending Class A champlors and owners of a proud 19-3 playoff record.

Barr is very familiar with Brother-Rice and its program, having spent 14 years as an assistant or head coach at Warren De-LaSalle, which plays in the Cathelic League with Rice. He admits the Rambler coaching staff knows more about Rice than his players. "Our kids don't even know about a so-cailed Rice mystique," Barr

team and they are the defending state champions. Sure, I'm familiar with them. But it's not what, I know, it's what we as coaches can get across to the players."

What Barr will tell the Ramblet's is that Rice brings an unimpressive but very deceiving, 7.3 record into the game. That includes five regular-season games against eventual

the game. That includes five regge lar-ceason games against wentual state playoff participants — all of which are still alive.

"I HAVE A lot of respect for Al Pracassa and his program," said Barr. "He is one of the finest coaches I know. I even send my quarterbacks to his summer camps. He does a great job with them. He runs one of the most disciplined programs I have ever seen."

The Warriors barely qualified for the playoffs, finishing fourth in their region. But Rice opened the tournament by eliminating Southeastern Michigan Association champion and previously undefeated Birmingham Seaholm in last week's pre-regional game, 14-7.
The game should feature a pair of outstanding defenses.

The Rambiers have allowed only 104 points on the season (29 in a loss to Chippewa Valley) with three-shutouts. Rice-has-allowed 115 points in its 10 games with two shutouts.

One of the main threats that got Fraser to where it's at is the run-ning ability of senior tallback Sean Penzack, a cousin of Jason Penzak

## Shamrocks play Ford

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He gained 225 yards rushing on 14 carries and scored three TDs against Fordson and each week amazes Marshall with his progress.

"He couldn't hand the ball off, throw the ball three yards or do anything at the start of the season," Marshall said. "But be's a hard worker, smart, dependable and shows poise."

The Trojan backfield includes 6-foot-2, 210-pound tailback Damond Rush, who has more than 800 yards rushing, and Leon Merritt, a sophomore fullback who already stands 6-2 weighs 207 pounds. Merritt leads the team with more than 900 yards, Marshall said.

THE FASTEST player on the field Saturday will be Landell Bright, a

THE FASTEST player on the field Saturday will be Landell Bright, a 5-5, 130-pound receiver who can "flat out fly," according to Marshail. Junior linebacker Joe Herman leads CC with 84 tackies but the leader is senior linebacker Gary Siegal, who has 81 tackies and delivers devastating blocks when he lines up in the Shamrocks' offensive backfield. "Gary is one of the toughest kids you'll ever meet," Mach said. "Hes, the best offensive blocker we've ever had. The linemen open the holes and he picks up the linebackers."

CC placekicker Kerry Zavagnin could be the difference in a close game and Mach hopes the senior can reach the end zone with bis kickoffs. Zavagnin had trouble getting his footing against Pontiac Central and Khan Powell took advantage, returning one of Zavagnin's short kickoffs for an 89-yard TD.
"I'd prefer Mr. Zavagnin put his kickoffs into the end zone," Mach sald. "I hope we get the chance to kick off a number of times."



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