

## Sports

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SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Dan Night is congratulated by teammate Duante Anderson after making one of his three interceptions Saturday.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

A pair of No. 32s put their heads together Saturday in Harrison's 21-6 victory over Allen Park. Mike Pesci of Harrison (left) prepared for a collision with Jim Balogh after catching a pass. Pesci tackled the Hawks defensively with 22 tackles.

## Dynamite defense

### Hawks stop stubborn Allen Park

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Allen Park coach Ed Bellas beamed the fact his football team have scored only six points in each of three playoff games with Farmington Hills Harrison.

"I guess that's my limit," the good-natured Bellas said after the Hawks dominated the second half Saturday and won 21-6 over a strong Allen Park squad at Harrison.

The Hawks will play Tecumseh in the Class BB semifinals Saturday at a site to be determined today. Both teams are 11-0. Allen Park finishes 10-1.

While the Jaguars had the same number of points as they did in 1987 and 1989, they certainly gave the Hawks their best game of the three meetings.

Allen Park couldn't conquer the Harrison defense, however.

Hawks overcame a problem-plagued first half with a solid defensive effort and took the Jaguars out of the

#### football

game with more of the same in the second half.

"THEY WERE too tough defensively," Bellas said. "They took away our sweeps, our counters, our screens. These are tough kids up here. We haven't seen anyone like them, not like the Gletzner brothers."

"I thought we could have had a couple TDs in the first half and maybe been taken over (Harrison defensive coordinator Bob) Sutter does a tremendous job. They had us covered. Remember, this is the best team in the state."

Harrison was planned in its own end for much of the first half, which ended in a 6-6 tie after the Jaguars scored with 20 seconds remaining. The Hawks had poor field position

the entire half, and that was compounded by five penalties — four resulting from personal fouls — and two turnovers.

"We lost our pulse and it cost us penalties," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "We were lucky it was 6-6, although we could have gotten out of there 6-0."

But Allen Park failed to take advantage of other favorable situations. The Jaguars began six of their eight first-half possessions between the Harrison 30- and 46-yard lines. Their worst field position was their own 33.

THE HAWKS countered by intercepting two passes, forcing two punts and stopping Allen Park once when it tried a fake punt and later on a fake field goal.

"Our backs were always against the wall," said Harrison senior Dan Night, who had three interceptions playing in only his second game since recovering from a broken collarbone.

"I figured with their receiver (Mark Meyer) being 6-5 and Roy (Granger) and me being little guys they would do the best they could to pick on us. They had big guys up front and (Ryan) Miller is a tough runner. We had to play tough or they would have run all over us."

The Hawks caught a break when Andy Fitzpatrick passed 66 yards to Duante Anderson for a second-quarter touchdown. Anderson had to wait for the ball but pulled away as the defender dove at his feet.

The Jaguars tied it after recovering a fumble at the Harrison 35. Miller, the big-time prospect, made a leaping catch in traffic at the 8 and another in the end zone for the TD.

When Harrison was offside on the extra-point play, Allen Park decided to run for two, but linebacker Mike Pesci stopped quarterback Chris Frisby at the line.

"WHEN WE stuffed them on the extra point, I knew they weren't going to score again," said Pesci, who led the defense with 22 tackles, including nine solos. "I was pretty confident in the defense the whole day. The only thing that worried me were the penalties. That's the only way they could move the ball."

It was a different second half as the Hawks cut down on penalties,

countered one turnover with another, scored twice in the third quarter and dominated with defense.

"The coaches reminded us at halftime this would be the seniors' last time on this field, and that hit pretty deep in me," Pesci said. "I think it did with all the seniors. We knew we had to suck it up."

Harrison held the Jaguars to one first down and 12 yards in the second half. Senior linebacker Mike Gletzner had 17 tackles, including seven solos.

Allen Park had 156 yards overall. Miller gained 41 yards on 15 carries, and he caught four passes for 59. Frisby completed six of 20 passes for 61 yards and threw three interceptions.

"Nothing really hurt us," Herrington said. "It was just that Miller and Meyer could outjump us for the ball. That was a personnel matchup. They averaged 41 points and we held them to six, so we did a pretty good job."

Harrison turned Night's second theft into the go-ahead TD. Fitzpatrick threw first-down passes to Night and Pesci, and Granger ran five straight plays up the middle, scoring from the 1. Fitzpatrick also passed to Granger for two points and a 14-6 lead.

"I CHANGED defenses at halftime just in case, and I made a bad decision," Bellas said. "That allowed Granger to run up in there. When he wants to burn, he burns."

Granger rushed for 103 of his 170 yards in the second half, including a 55-yard TD run late in the third quarter.

Harrison forced a punt and scored on second down when Granger broke through the line and blew past the secondary. Alex Dryngel's kick made it 21-6.

"They were stacking and blitzing on the power side," Herrington said. "So we decided to go away from power and that one broke it."

The Hawks had 166 of their 292 yards in the second half. Fitzpatrick was 7-of-16 passing for 141 yards. Anderson, Greg Fitzpatrick — playing both ways in his first game since being injured six weeks ago — and Pesci had two catches apiece.

Harrison has gained its sixth consecutive semifinal berth and Saturday will try to earn its fourth trip in five years to the Silverdome for the state finals.

## Shamrocks bury Trojans in second half

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

None of Bedford Catholic Central's linemen made the All-Catholic League first team, but they all made an impression Saturday on Detroit Henry Ford coach Mike Marshall.

After a sluggish first half, CC dominated the line of scrimmage in the second half and rolled to a 38-8 win over Ford in a Class AA quarterfinal game. The Shamrocks led 10-8 at halftime and capped all four of its second-half possessions with touchdowns in a devastating performance at Livonia Clarenceville.

CC scored on drives of 70, 61, 30 and 34 yards in the second half and ran 31 offensive plays after halftime compared to Ford's 15. Marshall was leery about CC's All-Catholic wide receiver Frank Yoakam prior to the game but came away just as impressed with

the Shamrocks' line and the senior backfield of Jeff Tibaldi and Dan Gusoff.

"They wore us down and were stronger in the trenches," Marshall said. "When you know what's going to happen and you can't stop it, you know that's what it is."

"YOAKAM WASN'T the problem. The problem was their offensive line and they have big backs who run strong. We need to regroup, get in the weight room and get stronger."

CC, which had 348 yards and 21 first downs, limited Ford to 95 total yards and seven first downs — six of which came before halftime. Ford's dangerous quarterback, Orlando Fortunato, didn't complete a pass until 10:25 remaining in the game, and several of his passes were knocked down at the line by CC's linemen.

Jason Krueger sacked Fortunato once, while Dan Kelly, Paul Nemzek and David

Bruhowski combined for another CC sack. Yoakam had a fumble recovery and John Ivezic had an interception.

Tibaldi, also left off the Detroit Free Press' All-Catholic League first team despite gaining 1,005 yards prior to Saturday, finished with 119 yards on 21 carries and a second-half TD.

"I think I proved that I was an All-Catholic back," Tibaldi said. "I don't want to sound cocky but, yeah, I think I deserved it." CC, 9-1 overall, will meet Detroit Martin Luther King in a Class AA semifinal game to be played Saturday at Chippewa Valley High School. CC beat King in last year's Class AA championship game and earlier this season routed the Crusaders, 24-6.

KING BEAT Uteia Ford, 27-12, in the other Region III game played Saturday. Henry Ford took an 8-3 first half lead after a 1-yard run by Leon Merritt and a two-

point conversion pass, but the Shamrocks gained momentum for the second half with an 80-yard TD drive just before halftime.

Quarterback Chris Barbara, who completed five of 12 passes for 64 yards, kept the drive alive with an 8-yard pass to Yoakam on third down and goal line. The Ford nine, Gusoff, who finished with 82 yards on 16 carries, scored on the next play and Kerry Zavagnin kicked the extra point for a 10-8 halftime lead.

Zavagnin earlier in the half got CC on the board with a 42-yard field goal, his longest of the year.

"I think the drive right before halftime was great to set the momentum for the second half," CC coach Tom Mach said. "It was a two-minute drill and we worked it very well to get us a TD and give us the spark we needed. Tibaldi and Gusoff ran real hard."

CC took the opening kickoff of the second half and drove 70 yards for a score and a 17-

8 lead. Gusoff, following a block by Gary Stegall, scored from a yard out on third down to cap the drive.

AFTER CC's defense held on Ford's next possession, the Shamrocks drove another 61 yards for a TD, finishing the drive with a 6-yard run by Tibaldi. Zavagnin's extra point made the score 24-8 with 11:34 remaining in the game.

Yoakam made the score 31-8 with a 16-yard counter run with 6:21 left, and the Shamrocks finished the scoring with 1:42 left on an 8-yard run by Nemzek.

"We weren't really sure what they were doing in the first half and had problems blocking their middle linebackers," CC senior linebacker Dan Cretu said. "But we made adjustments and went back to straight-on helmet-to-helmet blocking instead of doubling at the point of attack."

## OCC cagers cross Jordan for 1st win

Oakland Community College registered its first men's basketball victory Wednesday, defeating Jordan College of Detroit 91-86.

Rashie Reviere led the Raiders with 28 points. Bill Thurston of Rochester added 15.

OCC began the season with three losses against nationally ranked Division I junior college teams in the Midwest Classic Nov. 7-9 in Popular Bluff, Mo. The Raiders are Division II.

Reviere had an outstanding tournament, averaging 23 points per game in losses to Three Rivers (Mo.) 86-81, Shelby State of Memphis (Tenn.) 116-106 and Mississippi County (Ark.) 105-86.

Reviere scored 26 points against both Three Rivers and Shelby State and concluded with 16 in the Mississippi County game. He was subsequently named to the all-tournament team.

Dale Craft scored 17 points and Rod Hall 16 against Three Rivers. Hall also had 26 and Auburn Hills Avondale alum Kevin Woodmore 15 in the Shelby State contest.

Craft had another 17-point game against Mississippi County in which Myron Banks added 14 for the Raiders.

## North free throws sink Falcons

North Farmington capitalized on its free throw chances Thursday to defeat visiting Farmington 44-39 in girls basketball.

The Raiders made 17 of their 30 free throws, the Falcons five of 14. North led 22-14 at halftime and survived an attempt by Farmington to rally in the second half.

The Falcons had several chances to get closer than five points but failed to do so. Farmington missed the front end of four one-and-one opportunities in the fourth quarter.

"Our girls were tired, but they stayed with it," Farmington coach Brian Swinehart said. The Falcons had played the previous night, defeating Farmington Hills Harrison 36-27.

Carey Perkins scored 17 points and Danielle LaBorde 12 to lead North.

Amani Plater also had 17 points, Tammy Allen 15 points and 13 re-

#### girls basketball

| Tourney preview, 3B

bounds, for Farmington, which played without Andrea Salyer (injury) and Handeep Sandhu (illness). The Falcons finished the regular season 4-16.

HARRISON 42, CHURCHILL 26: Heather Hopkins had 26 points, 18 rebounds and six blocked shots Friday, leading the host Hawks to a win over Livonia Churchill.

Hopkins, who was 11-for-18 from the field, scored 18 of her points in the second half.

"Her shot was falling," Harrison coach Mike Mantyla said. "She had two girls on her most of the time because they played a triangle and two defense. She rebounded real hard."

Harrison finished the regular season 21-13 overall. Churchill finished 2-18.

Freshman forward Krista Snow added four points and 11 assists for Harrison.

Christy Daly led Churchill with 22 points, including 17 in the fourth quarter.

"She got real hot," Mantyla said. "We weathered her little storm. She plays and goes to the basket real hard."

FARMINGTON 36, HARRISON 27: The Falcons outscored the visitors 12-2 in the third quarter to erase a five-point halftime deficit and take a 26-21 lead into the last period.

"We came out pressing, picked

them up full court and got some easy buckets out of it," Swinehart said.

"Our defense shut them down," Becky Washnock, Allen and Danielle Salyer scored eight points apiece for the Falcons. Washnock also had 15 rebounds.

Farmington held Harrison's leading scorers Heather Hopkins and Krista Snow to less than their averages. Hopkins had seven points and Snow two. Hopkins averages 17 per game and Snow around 10.

Andrea and Danielle Salyer led the Farmington defensive effort, according to Swinehart.

RENAISSANCE 46, MERCY 40: The Marlins started strong, leading 20-7 at the end of the first quarter, but then tailed off as Detroit Renaissance rallied to win the game.

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