

## Hawks focus on semi

By Don O'Meara  
staff writer

After a bitter experience at this stage of the football playoffs last year, Farmington Hills Harrison gets a chance to redeem itself Saturday.

The Hawks play Tecumseh at 3:30 p.m. in a Class BII semifinal game at Ypsilanti Stadium in Ypsilanti.

Harrison won't get a chance to avenge its last defeat, however. The Hawks were favored to win a third consecutive state title a year ago but were upset by Oxford in the semifinals, 48-55. The Wildcats were beaten in the first round this year by Marine City, which was eliminated by Tecumseh.

The Harrison-Tecumseh winner will play either Three Rivers or Cheboygan for the 1991 championship at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, in the Pontiac Silverdome.

"THIS YEAR we're looking at the semi," Harrison tri-captain Mike Pesci said. "We were thinking about the Dome last year, but this year we're only thinking about this game."

Oxford finished the regular season 9-0, and a rematch seemed likely. Harrison coach John Herrington said the players were disappointed they had played so poorly last year and wanted another game with the Wildcats.

"They really wanted that matchup," he said. "At this point, it really doesn't make a difference who you play. It's a matter of getting to the line and finishing the regular season 9-0."

"We'll make sure they concentrate, because we think the semifinal is the hardest game of the tournament to win. It's the game that gets you into the Silverdome. Nobody remembers who didn't quite make it there."

In the 11 times Harrison has been in post-season competition, the Hawks have never failed to reach the semifinal round. Their playoff record is 26-5. Harrison has been in the finals six times and hopes to make it seven.

"This team doesn't want to lose at anything," Herrington said. "We saw

that in the summer passing league."

THE FIRST and second units usually played a half game each with the exception of one.

"We were playing Ulica Eisenhower, and it was a close game so they wouldn't let the second team in," Herrington said. "They said they wanted to win everything from the passing league on, including the four-way scrimmage. They said our only loss was the Green-and-Gold game when half the team lost."

"And the side that lost said coach (Bob) Sutter cheated, calling an extra point by Oxford in the semifinals, 48-55. So both sides think they lost."

Harrison won all 10 games in the passing league, and the Hawks have won 11 straight this season, including two playoff victories. Harrison has won 58 of its last 62 games.

Tecumseh coach Ray Schmidt knows about winning, too. He was an assistant at Hudson in 1975 when the Tigers set a national record for the longest unbeaten streak at 72 consecutive games.

Schmidt has been an assistant at Tecumseh since 1977 and became head coach in 1989. The school had its last undefeated football season in 1973.

"WE'VE HAD a great full sports season," Schmidt said. "The girls basketball team went into the tournament 20-0 and with us being 11-0 it's been pretty exciting in the community."

The Indians had to win several big games along the way to win the Southeastern Conference title and finish the regular season 9-0.

Tecumseh beat defending SEC champ Scott, a Class BII playoff team, last year, in the third week. The Indians and Milan were undefeated when they met in the sixth game.

"We had never beaten Saline since we've been in the conference (11 years)," Schmidt said. "We got the monkey off our back, and we got better each year after that."

"Our offense actually came to life (against Milan) and we've improved a great deal offensively since then, too."

## Tecumseh favors run game

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Andy Fitzpatrick has thrown for 1,455 yards, and the Hawks no doubt hope to exploit Tecumseh's three-man secondary. Fitzpatrick has completed 80 of 155 passes, and he has 20 touchdown tosses as opposed to nine interceptions.

"I know their quarterback does a nice job of rolling out and also likes to run, so we're very concerned about their pass-run game," Schmidt said.

Fitzpatrick will want to know where defensive end John Paine (6-7, 210) is, too. He has knocked down 18 passes and has started to draw the interest of recruiters since the Indians have done well in the playoffs.

The Hawks, who have rushed for 2,143 yards and passed for 1,571, won't change things at this late date. But they will hope for better field position and fewer penalties. While Allen Park was on the Harrison side most of the first half last week, the Hawks started at their own 27, 29, 17, 35, 19, 10 and 20.

"We'll do basically the same offense," Herrington said. "We want to get Roy loose in the secondary, so we have to block well at the point of attack. Our passing game is strong and complements the running game well."

TECUMSEH LINES up in the wishbone formation, but its play selection more resembles that of a wing-T offense. The Indians are a power team and, despite their alignment, run few option plays unlike Oxford, which used it to confound the Hawks in the semifinals last year.

"They control the football with the power game," Herrington said. "They just keep running at you. They

### football

TECUMSEH		
27	Hillsdale	0
23	Ypsilanti Lincoln	0
14	Saline	6
31	Jackson Northwest	14
32	Pineckey	8
26	Milan	7
29	Cheslon	3
23	Dexter	6
42	Onsted	19

PLAYOFFS		
26	Ironia	6
20	Maine City	13
293	11-0-0	84

like to give the ball to the fullback, but they have two good halfbacks and they mix it up pretty well."

Jason Tuberville (6-2, 190) is the fullback and the leading rusher with 902 yards and nine TDs on 147 attempts. He reminds of Herrington of Rice upback Sean Johnson.

The halfbacks are Ryan Kambas (5-6, 160) and Scott Faulkner (6-0, 170). Kambas has carried 94 times for 579 yards and scored 10 touchdowns. Faulkner 85 for 506 and five, respectively.

"We throw 10 times a game at the most," Schmidt said. "Our offense is geared around several running backs carrying the ball. We don't have one who does it all like Harrison. Four or five kids have done a lot for us."

"We've had our defense give us the ball quite often in good field position, but we've also been able to drive 70 or 80 yards."

THE TECUMSEH quarterback is senior Brent Goodie (6-2, 165), who has completed 91 of his 133 attempts for 618 yards. He has thrown 13 interceptions and only six TD passes. Brian Burns, the leading receiver, is not expected to play due to a knee injury.

Harrison defenders have intercepted 23 opposing passes, including three by Dan Hight last week against Allen Park.

The Indians have rushed 492 times for 2,521 yards and passed on 142 plays for 664 yards. While Tecumseh's offensive strength is a power running attack, the Hawks have been strong against the run, especially in the middle.

Led by senior linebacker Mike Pesci's 23 tackles, Harrison held Allen Park to 12 yards in the second half and stood tall in the first half with its back against its own goal line.

A lot of credit goes to the defensive coaches — (Bob) Sutter, (John) Witkowski and (Steve) Dolloway," Herrington said. "They spent many hours preparing the defense."

"Dolloway did the scouting and had their play-calling tendencies down. Sutter and Witkowski put in the defense around that, and Pesci make the right adjustments on the field."

Senior end-defensive back Greg Piscopink played the entire game against Allen Park in his first competition since being injured at mid-season.

"I thought he played very well for the first time back in seven weeks," Herrington said. "I don't think he was 100 percent and there were a couple pass patterns, if he had been able to run all out, he might have gotten to. But he still made the plays."

## CC to play King again

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

Senior tailback Gregory Scott walked off Detroit Martin Luther King's football field after practice Tuesday wearing a "Bart Simpson" T-shirt underneath his shoulder pads and practice jersey.

"Bart Simpson's my boy and this is my lucky practice T-shirt," said Scott, the Crusaders' most dangerous threat. Scott has another favorite T-shirt he wears underneath his pads only on game days.

"For games I wear a T-shirt that has a King Crusader football player running for a touchdown," he said.

"On the back of the shirt it says 'Never, never quit.'"

Scott knows he might have to score often and his teammates can't afford to quit when King meets Redford Catholic Central in a Class AA playoff semifinal at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Mount Clemens Culpwpa Valley High School. The Shamrocks beat King in last year's Class AA championship game at the Pontiac Silverdome, 21-0, and also routed the Crusaders earlier this year, 24-0 on King's home turf.

CC brings a 10-1 record into the game, while King is 9-2, losing only to CC and Detroit Mumford.

"We got up on them (10-0 at half-time) and they kind of gave up," CC two-way back Brett Waller said of the teams' earlier meeting. "We need to have a good first half this week. Both teams know what's coming. Whoever comes out and plays the best is going to win."

Scott, a Detroit Public School League first-team selection, has had a memorable senior year, rushing for 1,591 yards and scoring 20 touchdowns. Scott's performance against CC wasn't so memorable, however, as he was held well below 100 yards.

CC outgained King, 265-107, in total yardage and Scott scored King's only TD late in the game on a three-yard run. The Crusaders ran only 37 offensive plays compared to CC's 69. King started Clarence Thompson in the first game at quarterback against CC but the starter ever since has been Chris Johnson, Reynolds said.

"I can't take away from them that they're a good team, because I think they are good," Scott said of CC. "But I think we're better than them if we play our best ball."



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

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