

Sports

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Hawks thump Tecumseh, head to Dome

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

The semifinal game is always the hardest to win in the football playoffs, according to Farmington Hills Harrison coach John Herrington.

Maybe most years, certainly last year, but definitely not this year.

The Hawks earned a return trip to the Silverdome for another championship game by plastering Tecumseh 32-7 Saturday at Rynearson Stadium in Ypsilanti.

Harrison will play Cheboygan (10-2) for the Class BB title at 8 p.m. Saturday. The Hawks are 12-0 and one win away from their third undefeated season in four years.

"It feels great to be back," Herrington said. "The kids were very disappointed last year that we didn't make it. They dedicated themselves to this from the beginning of the year. It was a big motivator for them to get back."

AFTER BEING upset by Oxford in the semifinal game last year and denied a fourth consecutive finals appearance, Harrison guaranteed a different story this time as it dominated the No. 4-ranked Indians (11-1).

After spotting Tecumseh a 7-0 lead following a fumble on the opening kickoff, the Hawks roared back to control every phase of the game and amass a 415-32 margin in total offense.

Harrison ran through the Tecumseh defense for 297 yards, and tailback Roy Granger led the way with 143 and three touchdowns on 27 carries. He scored from 5 yards and 2 times.

But the defense again played big. The Hawks held Tecumseh to 10 yards rushing and outgained the Indians 215-22 in the first half while taking a 19-7 lead.

"The TNT played great," Harrison linebacker Mike Pesci said, referring to tackles Jason Gloetznor and

John Splax and noseguard Leon Jefferson. "They shut down the fullback, and the linebackers and ends shut down the halfbacks. It was a total defensive effort today. Everybody did his job and held his responsibility."

The Hawks limited Tecumseh's leading rusher, fullback Jason Tuberville, to 3 yards on six carries. Quarterback Brent Gnodtke scrambled for a team-high 19 yards, but he completed only one of 13 passes and was intercepted three times. Harrison picked off four passes altogether and recovered three fumbles.

"WE'RE BIG UP front and they were a power team," Herrington said, "so their strength played into our strength."

"They couldn't run the ball, and they were not a throwing team. When they had to throw, we had the advantage and got the interceptions."

It was a come-from-behind victory, however, as the Hawks found themselves down early 7-0. Tecumseh recovered the fumbled kick at the Harrison 11-yard line, and Scott Faulkner scored five plays later from a yard out.

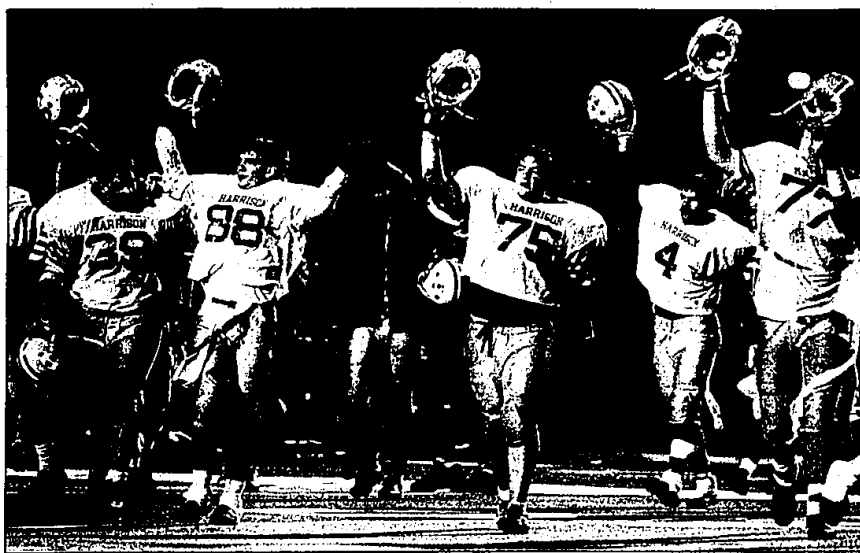
Schmidt thought the fumble recovery and ensuing score was a good omen.

"We had that happen five times this year, either on the kickoff or the first play from scrimmage," he said. "When I saw that, I thought 'Ah, there it is, we're going to continue to roll.'"

The Hawks had to wonder if it was going to be a repeat of last year's debacle with Oxford, which resulted in a 48-38 defeat.

"It entered my mind," Herrington said. "Even though they got the ball at the 11, it took them a while to score, and I thought we would stop them in the open field."

"WE KNEW WE were coming back," Pesci said. "I was confident the offense could move the ball. We



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Harrison players (from left) Mike Gloetznor, Dave Gloetznor, Jason Gloetznor, Greg Placopink and Mike Story raise their helmets in triumph as they leave the field following a 32-7 win over

Tecumseh in the Class BB semifinal game Saturday. The Hawks play Cheboygan in the Silverdome this week.

had all year and I didn't think today would be any different."

It wasn't.

Harrison went 70 yards in 11 plays after the next kick, scoring on Granger's 5-yarder. The defense appeared to have strung the play out to the sideline, but Granger turned up field and was in the end zone in an instant.

"He just has great ability," Tecumseh coach Ray Schmidt said. "He looks for things and then goes. He did that quite a bit today, and that was the story of the ballgame."

The Hawks answered Tecumseh's score with a sustained drive provided them with an emotional lift and took any momentum away from the Indians.

"I thought we'd be OK if we came right back and scored," Herrington said, adding he wasn't real concerned. "We've got a good offense and I felt we could bounce back. I was glad we did it on the first drive, so our kids wouldn't start to doubt themselves."

Harrison scored the next time it had the ball, too. Dan Hight, who fumbled the kickoff, redeemed himself by turning a screen pass from

Andy Fitzpatrick (6-11-118) into a 58-yard TD, putting the Hawks in front 13-7.

"I TRIED TO come back from that fumble and get my confidence back," said Hight, who slashed his way through the defense and past the secondary. "That really got me back in the game mentally."

Though it came early in the game, that touchdown might have been the knockout punch. The Indians had stopped Harrison at its own 27, but a penalty for roughing the punter allowed the Hawks to keep possession. Hight scored on first down.

"We had a chance to get the ball back and then... there they go," Schmidt said. "That stood us back on our heels, and we didn't recover very well from that."

Harrison led 19-7 at halftime, scoring on Granger's first 27-yard run after a short punt gave the Hawks possession at the Tecumseh 44.

The Hawks sealed the victory by driving 91 yards for another TD after Tecumseh was three-and-out on its first possession of the second half.

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CC kicks King with field goal

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

With the Rev. Ed Donohoe saying the rosary behind one end zone and student manager Pete Jackson standing behind the other, with hands raised like Jesus Christ, Redford Catholic Central couldn't lose Saturday afternoon.

Placekicker Kerry Zavagnin answered Father Donohoe's prayers when he buried a 27-yard field goal in overtime to defeat Detroit Martin Luther King 10-7 in a thrilling Class AA semifinal playoff game played at Mount Clemens Chippewa Valley.

Donohoe spent the game pacing and praying behind the end zone by himself as he usually does at CC games. Jackson stood behind the other end zone for Zavagnin's win-

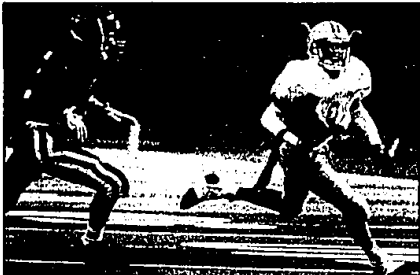
ning kick, making like the now-famous eye-catching mural (on the Hesburgh Library) hovering behind Notre Dame's football stadium known as "Touchdown Jesus."

Zavagnin's a big Notre Dame fan and he asked that one of CC's student managers on the sidelines stand behind the goal post for his winning kick, with hands raised like the painting.

"Pete Jackson was standing behind the goal posts, pretending to be Him and he asked that one of CC's student managers on the sidelines stand behind the goal post for his winning kick, with hands raised like the painting."

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Roy Granger eludes a Tecumseh defender Saturday on the artificial surface at Rynearson Stadium.

Berrigan leads Marlins to district title

By Bill Parker
staff writer

Kathleen Berrigan has stepped her game up to another level. And because of her added contributions, Farmington Hills Mercy was able to claim its third straight Class A girls basketball district championship Friday at Walled Lake Central.

Berrigan, a senior guard, played a marvelous game at the point Friday night, scoring 11 points and dishing off 12 assists in leading the Marlins to a 45-38 victory over Walled Lake Central in the district final. Mercy (14-8 on the season) opens play in the Southfield-Lathrup regional, 6 p.m. Monday against Berkley (16-7).

"Anyone who came into the gym knew Kathleen Berrigan controlled the tempo of the game," said Mercy coach Larry Baker. "She is certainly the MVP of this district tournament. She had 15 points and eight assists against Novi (Mercy's semifinal victory) and 11 points and 12 assists against Walled Lake Central. The key is that she is looking to create her own shots now. The assists have always been there, but now she's looking to score."

THE MARLINS WERE in control from the start and outscored the Vikings in all four quarters. With the game tied at 8-8 late in the first quarter, Mercy's press kicked in. The Marlins forced four Central turnovers in the final 1:31 of the first and scored the final six points of the quarter to take the lead for good, 14-8.

"Mercy was the better ball club tonight," said Central coach Ken Butler, whose team finished the season at 12-11. "We didn't handle their press very well. They took us out of our half-court ball game. Berrigan just controlled the game."

Sophomore guard Karri Kobus (14 points) pulled the Vikings to within a basket, 14-12, by opening the second quarter with back-to-back layups. But Mercy senior Laure DeMattia responded with six of her game-high 18 points in leading the Marlins on a 9-2 run. Mercy took a 23-14 lead on DeMattia's inside jumper with 1:36 remaining in the half. DeMattia scored again from inside the paint with 10 seconds remaining in the half as Mercy held a comfortable 25-18 lead entering halftime.

Baker was pleased with Julie Angel's performance, especially in the first half when she grabbed 15 of her team-leading 16 rebounds and scored four points.

"Angel's 15 rebounds were critical," Baker said. "She played most of the season on the junior varsity. She came up after the 10th game of the season and we have worked real hard to work her into the team."

THE MARLINS took advantage of some cold shooting by Central in the third quarter (2-of-15 from the floor) as they steadily pulled away from the struggling Vikings.

Berrigan opened the quarter with a layup on a nice move down the lane and DeMattia followed with a turn-around jumper. Central, which missed its first eight shots from the

floor, finally found the hoop when junior forward Bridgette Norris (10 points) scored with 3:50 remaining in the third.

The Marlins closed the quarter with a 6-0 run including a pair of free throws by junior guard Dana Wade with no time remaining on the clock as they increased their lead to 38-24.

"The key for us was that everyone executed the game plan," Baker said. "I was especially pleased with the play of Dana Wade and Valerie Jones coming off the bench. They both did a real nice job."

MERCY SENIOR Mary Bieniewicz made sure the Vikings had no chance of coming back in the fourth. Bieniewicz scored eight of her 14 points in the final quarter and grabbed three of her six steals as the Marlins outscored the Vikings 17-14 in the final eight minutes of play. Kobus scored five and Norris scored four in the fourth for Central.

"I thought it would be a tighter ball game than it was," said Butler. "We didn't do the little things well and the little things turned into big things."

The Vikings will lose four seniors to graduation including Kim Kobus, Jenny Czach (eight points), Carrie Cassinaki and Lesia Herrington. The nucleus of the team returns to action.

"I think we're going to be pretty good next year," added Butler. "I think the kids shored-up pretty well this year considering all the injuries and illnesses we had."



JOHN STORMZANDER/staff photographer

Mercy's Mary Bieniewicz looks for a teammate Friday in the district final. The Marlins won their 15th title in the last 17 years.