

SPORTS

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1994

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Hawks football banquet

Farmington Hills Harrison will have its annual football banquet 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at Vladimir's, 28125 Grand River (at Eight Mile Road).

Tickets are \$13 per person and can be purchased Tuesday between 7 and 7:45 a.m. outside the main office or Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the lunch room.

The evening will include dinner, post-season awards for the JV and varsity football teams and cheerleaders as well as a video presentation recapping the season.

The Hawks completed a 12-1 season Friday by winning their seventh state championship at the Pontiac Silverdome, 17-13 over Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central.

Maier finishes career

Carrie Maier of Farmington Hills, a fifth-year senior on the Wisconsin women's soccer team, concluded her collegiate career when the Badgers lost to Washington State 3-1 in the first round of the NCAA tournament Nov. 9. Maier, one of four captains, tallied nine points (three goals, three assists) in 22 games, including the game-winning goal against Colorado College in a 7-3 overtime victory.

In her career at Wisconsin, Maier had 40 points with 13 goals and 14 assists.

The 11th-ranked Badgers finished the season with a 16-6 record and reached the NCAA tournament for the sixth time in the last seven years.

College basketball news

Senior guard Eve Clair of Farmington Hills scored 16 points to lead the Central Michigan women's basketball team to a 69-61 exhibition win over the Danish national team Nov. 18.

Clair, who was an all-area player at North Farmington High School, and her CMU teammates began the regular season Saturday at Xavier (Ohio).

The Chippewas were 11-6 overall last year and 8-10 in the Mid-American Conference.

Scott Menser, a former Farmington High School player, is a freshman member of the Luther College men's basketball team in Decorah, Iowa. Menser was a high-scoring guard who helped the Falcons win a district championship and reach the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament final last March.

Luther College is a four-year liberal arts school, which competes in 10 men's and women's varsity sports. Luther is a member of the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and NCAA Division III.

Injury KO's Fitzpatrick

Holy Cross quarterback Andy Fitzpatrick (Harrison High) tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee Nov. 5 against Bucknell and missed the rest of the season.

The Farmington Hills junior suffered the same injury to his right knee midway in last season and had reconstructive surgery.

Fitzpatrick played in the first nine games, completing 51 of 102 passes for 581 yards and one touchdown.

Holy Cross finished the season 3-2 in the Patriot League and 3-8 overall.

Search for soccer talent

The Farmington Soccer Club will have tryouts for its under-13/14 boys team. Boys with birth dates between Aug. 1, 1981, and July 31, 1982, are encouraged to call coach Ron Meteyer (810-563-9138) for tryout information. The team will compete in the Little Caesars Youth Soccer League for the 1995 spring season.

Flyers have tryouts

The Oakland County Flyers AAU girls basketball teams will have tryouts according to the following schedule:

Saturdays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17, from 9-11 a.m. for ages 11 and 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for ages 13-14, 1-3 p.m. for 15-year-olds.

The Dec. 3 tryouts will take place at Warner Middle School (14 Mile Road), Dec. 10 and 17 at East Middle School (Middlebelt Road).

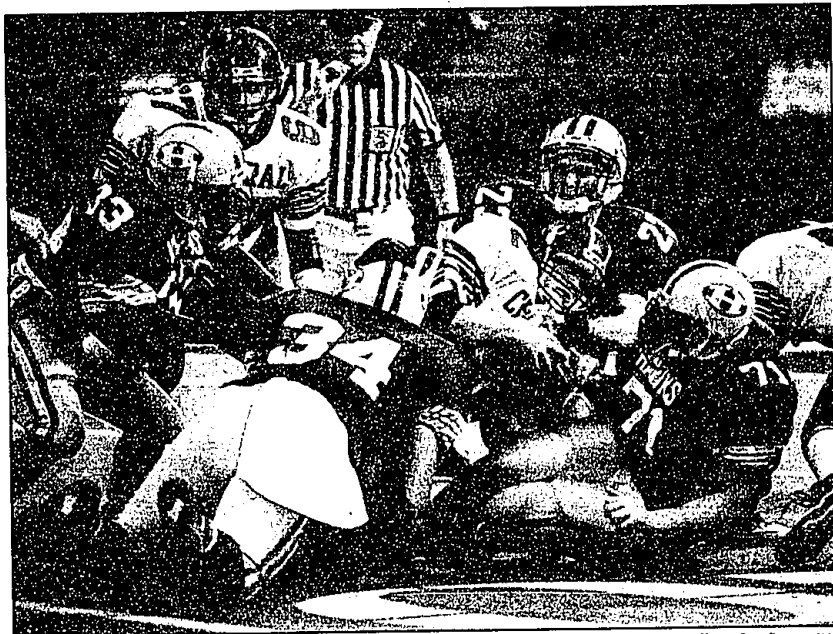
There will be tryouts for ages 16 and 18 from noon to 2 p.m. on Sundays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18 at Power Middle School (Gill Road).

For tryout information call 561-1878.

Moloney's hole-in-one

Perry J. Moloney of Farmington scored the 200-yard No. 6 hole at Kensington Golf Course on Nov. 20. The 60-year-old golfer used a three-iron to record his first hole-in-one after 20 years of playing golf. He shot 43 for the round.

Farmington sports information can be sent to Dan O'Meara at 953-2141. Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Fax name to 313-581-7379 or call 313-583-2141.



ANN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Power play: Forest Hills Central ran between the tackles most of the game, but the Harrison defense was no push-over. The Hawks didn't give up any long runs and played well overall. Jeremy White (33), Nick Williams (34), Dave Hensel (23) and Francis Gojcaj (71) combine to stop Jay McKellar.

Hawks — state champs 7th time



Farmington Hills Harrison lost the battle of statistics Friday but won the war. The Hawks were outgained but not outplayed as they defeated Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central 17-13 and won the Class A football crown.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Whoever said statistics are for losers will get an amen from the Farmington Hills Harrison football team.

The Hawks managed to win their seventh state championship Friday despite falling short in some other key statistical categories.

But Harrison had the better numbers in the one area that mattered most, outscoring Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central 17-13 in the Class A title game at the Silverdome.

It was the second straight championship and fifth in the last seven years for the Hawks (12-1), who have played in a record nine finals.

"We kinda knew all year we were going to win it," Harrison senior Kevin Bryant said. "We didn't think anybody in the state could stop our offense."

"They might not have wanted to say it, but everybody knew in the

back of their head we were going all the way again."

The Rangers (11-2) did their best to contain Harrison, and the Hawks had their hands full trying to stop Central's power offense.

Central controlled the ball for nearly three quarters of the game, had four times as many first downs (16-4) and ran twice as many plays as Harrison (85-30).

Those numbers usually tell a different story, but the Hawks won the game with three big plays — two by Jason Granger and one by Nick Williams — and a Kyle Vessell field goal.

"I've always said big players make big plays," Harrison coach John Herrington said, referring to Williams, Granger and Bryant.

"We've been a big-play team all year. We can power the ball, too, but this team was too good; we were fortunate to break one. Obviously, we were not a ball-control team today."

Yet the Hawks seemed in control of the game after the first quarter.

Central possessed the ball for all but 24.3 of the opening period; however, the Rangers were stopped on downs at the Harrison 16 and ended a later drive with a punt.

Williams ran a state-finals record 90 yards for a touchdown on the first play of the second quarter, and the Hawks led 7-0 after Vessell kicked the extra point.

Meanwhile, the Harrison defense got tough and held Central to four first downs in the middle quarters.

"(Coach) Bob (Gutter) said it was time the defense stepped up and played a good game, and they did," Herrington said. "They kept us in the game when we couldn't get anything going."

"They have a good power game, and we did a good job overall against their run. We moved a lot of guys in and out to keep people fresh."

Big play No. 2 came from No. 2 on the first play of the second half. Granger cut outside and tightrope the sideline 80 yards for another score and a 14-0 lead.

The Harrison defense continued to play well until Dave Vorce's interception, which sparked a 60-yard Central scoring drive. Jay McKellar ran 8

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yards for the touchdown, and Keith Debbaudt's extra point cut the deficit to 14-7 with 8:51 remaining.

Granger produced the third big play, returning the kickoff 77 yards to the Central 16. The Hawks had to settle for Vessell's 28-yard field goal and a 17-7 advantage.

"We've had big plays done on us, and we learned early in the season not to hang our heads," Central two-way player John Roark said.

Then the game got tight and more interesting than Harrison wanted.

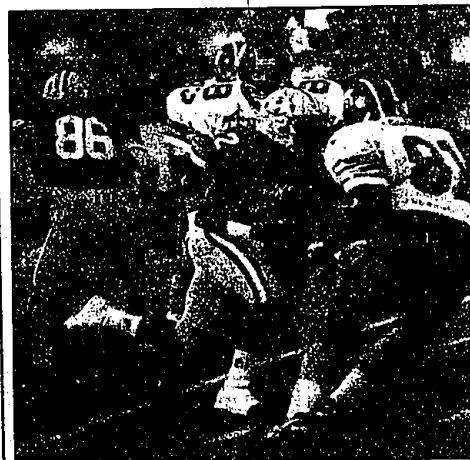
The Rangers finally left their rushing attack and went to the air. Greg Wood completed four of 10 passes on a 70-yard drive — all for first downs. The last went 9 yards to Mike Miller for the touchdown.

"I didn't want to take our kids out of the ballgame and away from what we do," Central coach Tim McGee said when asked why he didn't throw sooner. "And our game is the power game. But they did a good job of stopping us from getting some of those key passes."

Debbaudt missed the extra point.

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Big plays carry Harrison to 'A' title



ANN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Game-breaker: The Rangers stopped Jason Granger (2) on all but one run. The one they didn't stop was an 80-yarder.

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

If this was flag football, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central defensive back Rob Eiben might have had a chance to catch Farmington Hills Harrison fullback Nick Williams.

Williams, running with a towel tucked into his pants, burst through the line of scrimmage and reared 90 yards for a touchdown on the first play of the second quarter in Harrison's 17-13 Class A state championship victory over Central at the Silverdome.

Eiben chased Williams for the final 50 yards and got within reach of his towel, but was only able to trip up the Hawks' star after he crossed the goal line.

"When I first busted it, I got a good grip on the turf and exploded," said Williams, who finished with 133 yards on 14 carries (9.6 average). "I started getting tired at about the 20 and knew he had to go for my legs, so I just kicked it up."

Williams' run was a state championship game record for all classes and set the tone for other big plays by the Hawks.

Williams almost made it into the Michigan High School Athletic Association record book in last year's state championship, falling one yard shy of the Class A record with 168 yards on a record 29 carries in a 12-9 win over Midland.

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Junior tailback Jason Granger accounted for the rest of the Hawks' excitement on offense, running around right and 80 yards for a score on the first play of the second half, and returning a kickoff 77 yards to set up Kyle Vessell's 28-yard field goal in the fourth quarter.

Senior defensive back Kevin Bryant helped Harrison preserve the victory with an interception in the last minute at the Hawks' 7-yard line.

The Hawks were outgained, 245-203, in total yards and limited to four first downs, but the big plays more than made up for the disparity.

Granger's 80-yard run was the second longest TD run in the history of Class A state championship games.

He crossed the goal line with 11:46 remaining in the third quarter, meaning it took him 14 seconds to rumble 80 yards. That's the same time it took Williams to run 10 yards further.

The 5-foot-8, 148-pound Granger was kidded afterward that the 6-2, 245-pound Williams was faster.

"You know, Nick, he's a power runner and he ran up the middle; it was just him and one guy," said Granger, who had 82 yards on seven carries for an 11.7 average. "I had to

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