

FOOTBALL

1995 PREP FOOTBALL STANDINGS

WESTERN LAKES

ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

WESTERN DIVISION

League/Overall

W L W L

Farmington Harrison

Plymouth Canyon

Northville

W.L. Western

Livonia Franklin

Livonia Churchill

LAKES DIVISION

W L W L

Livonia Stevenson

W.L. Central

Westland John Glenn

Plymouth Salem

Farmington

North Farmington

MESA CONFERENCE

RED DIVISION

W L W L

Dearborn

Dearborn Fordson

Lincoln Park

Wyandotte Roosevelt

Romulus

Wayne Memorial

Woodhaven

WHITE DIVISION

W L W L

Dearborn

Don, Ethel Ford

Southeast

Troyer Human

Dearborn Union

Garden City

Taylor Kennedy

BLAKE DIVISION

W L W L

Dearborn

Dearborn Fordson

Lincoln Park

Wyandotte Roosevelt

Romulus

Wayne Memorial

Woodhaven

CATHOLIC DIVISION

W L W L

Dearborn

Dearborn Fordson

Lincoln Park

Wyandotte Roosevelt

Romulus

Wayne Memorial

Woodhaven

CATHOLIC WEST DIVISION

W L W L

Dearborn

Dearborn Fordson

Lincoln Park

Wyandotte Roosevelt

Romulus

Wayne Memorial

Woodhaven

CATHOLIC EAST DIVISION

W L W L

Dearborn

Dearborn Fordson

Lincoln Park

Wyandotte Roosevelt

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Wayne Memorial

Woodhaven

CATHOLIC SOUTH DIVISION

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Dearborn

Dearborn Fordson

Lincoln Park

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Romulus

Wayne Memorial

Woodhaven

CATHOLIC NORTH DIVISION

W L W L

Dearborn

Dearborn Fordson

Lincoln Park

Wyandotte Roosevelt

Romulus

Wayne Memorial

Woodhaven

CATHOLIC CENTRAL DIVISION

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Dearborn Fordson

Lincoln Park

Wyandotte Roosevelt

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Wayne Memorial

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CATHOLIC WEST DIVISION

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Wayne Memorial

Woodhaven

CATHOLIC EAST DIVISION

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Dearborn

Dearborn Fordson

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Stevenson tries to derail CC express

BY BRAD EMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Of the 64 teams who qualified for the high school football playoffs, Livonia Stevenson may be the biggest first-round underdog of them all.

The Spartans (7-2) are faced with the task of playing mighty Redford Catholic Central (9-0), ranked the top prep team in Michigan and No. 22 nationally in USA Today.

Game time for the Class AA-Region III matchup is 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Livonia Clarenceville.

"Chippewa Valley, Bay City Central and Flint Cushman-Ainsworth and ourselves are all in the same situation as No. 4 seeds," said Stevenson coach Tim Gabel, who guided the Spartans to a playoff berth in his first season.

"If we beat (Livonia) Franklin or (Farmington Hills) Harrison this year, we move up. But we didn't, and that's what you get as the low-seed team."

"But the thing about being in the tourney is to win, no matter who you face. They're all tough games."

A victory by Stevenson would be of 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey proportions.

"I think they are very solid," said Gabel, who has coached CC twice. "Most of the media attention is on CC fullback/noiseguard John Spolsky, as well it should. He's a senior co-captain and a standout."

"But I'm also impressed with (running back) Kevin Quay. He's very fast, even on a wet field when I saw him against Divine Child."

But Gabel doesn't stop there in his appraisal of CC.

"Greg Call (quarterback) has great feet," he said. "And for a junior, he makes outstanding decisions. He's so quick and can execute the passes off the midline. He's capable of big plays and might be the best runner they have. He scares me."

CC's 6-foot-7, 250-pound senior tight end Eric Gilbo also poses problems for Stevenson.

"At times he looks like an NFL tight end," Gabel said. "He's a big kid who can go over the middle and catch passes."

"And that's just their skill peo-

FOOTBALL

pla. They have an outstanding line. (Jamie) McFarland and (Mike) Smiley are particularly impressive. But they're all good and they're all big. CC is the ultimate ball-control team because they have the personnel."

Gabel is hoping his team can put forth its best effort of the year.

"One play we look good, but the next play we can look terrible," Gabel said. "We played three good quarters against Walled Lake Central and a good second half against Harrison, but we can't afford that this time. We can't make mistakes."

The Spartans, however, have some things going for them entering the first-round matchup.

Dean Bacheller, Eric Curl, Gabe Clark, Tom DuMont, Chris Arsenault and George Murphy all have playoff experience from a year ago when the 8-3 Spartans reached the region championship before losing to Westland John Glenn, 21-20.

The 6-foot-3, 246-pound Curl, a senior who goes both ways at tackle, has grown into a leadership role as one of three co-captains.

"I can't say enough about Curl's season," Gabel said. "He's improved throughout the year,

and he's in the best shape he's ever been."

"We have not subbed him out of a game since early in the year. He's intense and sets the tone in practice."

Stevenson also has had its share of unsung heroes.

Among those playing prominent roles but going relatively unnoticed are senior defensive end Ryan Cullio, senior linebacker Kevin Rosinski, senior noseguard Matt Bartlett, junior linebacker Mike Allison and DuMont, a senior who plays strong safety.

Allison is the team's leading tackler. Bartlett is ranked second along with safety Jeff Backus.

Those kids are all defensive standouts, Gabel said. "Not only have they emerged, but they've been critical for us because they play hard on every down. They're not spectacular, but they always give a 100-percent effort."

The Stevenson offense is built around Clark, a 5-8, 193-pound tailback who has 918 net yards on 163 carries (5.6 per carry) along with 12 touchdowns. Todd Ayres, a 5-10, 200-pound senior fullback, has added 240 yards.

Bacheller, a 6-2, 180-pound senior, has thrown for 719 yards (49-of-125) with nine TDs and eight interceptions.

His favorite receivers have been Backus (12 catches for 271 yards and five TDs), DuMont (12 for

177) and tight end Rob Drolet (11 catches).

"Every conceivable element must come together for this game," Gabel said. "Our motto has been all year that 'If you're going to make mistakes, then make big plays, but play hard to balance it out.'"

This is the first meeting in football between the two schools. They nearly met in the 1979 state Class A finals. Stevenson lost on a last-minute TD in the semifinals to Escanaba. CC beat the Eskymos in the state championship game at the Silverdome.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL

19	Toledo Catholic	6
35	Ann Arbor Pioneer	6
31	Warren DeLaSalle	13
35	Detroit DePue	6
26	Birm. Brother Rice	23
31	Orch. Lake St. Mary's	0
40	Univ. Detroit-Detroit	0
2	Dearborn Divine Child	8
17	Birm. Brother Rice	7
267	9-0-0	69

LIVONIA STEVENSON

27	Redford Union	0
14	Livonia Franklin	15
21	Farmington	19
20	Walled Lake Central	13
27	Plymouth Salem	6
13	North Farmington	0
14	Westland John Glenn	7
18	Farmington Harrison	31
26	Livonia Churchill	7
180	7-2-0	98

Shamrocks from page 1C

the-running of junior tailback Gabe Clark.

Bacheller victimized Farmington Hills twice with long passes to DuMont in Stevenson's 31-18 loss to the Hawks in the Western Lakes championship game two weeks ago.

"They're very aggressive defensively and give you a lot of different looks and stunts," Mach said.

"That's a good combination, their quarterback to wide receiver."

Several CC players live in Livonia and know many Stevenson players.

"I've heard they're as anxious to play us as we are to play them," said CC linebacker Tom Smiley, who leads the Shamrocks with 49 tackles. "We've heard a lot of stuff. None of us will take them lightly."

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