

O'Meara

from page 1C

Mercy, North Farmington and Harrison lose only two seniors apiece, as far as players with substantial court time. One of the North seniors is four-year starter Carrie May, however.

Otherwise, each team will return most of its squad, so let's plan on basketball being even better in 1996.

Kudos to the two dozen or so Farmington students who showed up Friday to comprise a sufficiently vocal cheering section. They helped to balance a loud Lahser crowd, and I'm sure the Farmington girls noticed and appreciated that.

Some thoughts on grid play.

I think everybody who follows high school football, as well as the folks around town, were shocked when South Lyon beat Harrison 40-0 in the first round of the playoffs.

But after seeing what the No. 1-ranked Lions did in their last two games, that score doesn't look quite so bad now.

Dearborn hadn't given up a point in 10 games until South Lyon whipped the Pioneers 24-0.

It was a terrible day to play or watch, with a wind chill near zero, 40-mph winds and snow that turned the field into a muddy mess.

If the weather had been better, would it have been more of a game?

I doubt that. In fact, I think the score might have been worse, having seen South Lyon play four times now.

The Lions whipped Pontiac Central, the team that beat defending AA champ Troy 8-0, last week in the state semifinals, 65-25.

Actually, it wasn't that close. Twenty of Central's points were scored long after the issue had been decided.

It was 25-8 at halftime and could have been 35-0. South Lyon led 48-8 in the third quarter.

The Lions are exceptionally quick at the point of attack, Mike Watson and Greg McGuire are breakaway running threats, and the South Lyon defense is as good as they get.

Simply said, the Lions are very good, and we'll all be shocked if they don't win the Class A championship this week.

If you've been in the ring as many times as Harrison has, I guess the law of averages says you're going to get KO'd some time or other.

That Harrison has nearly always been the one delivering the knockout punch is a tribute to its incredible success.

And, like the Hawks and their fans, I became accustomed to the November ritual of witnessing another romp through the playoffs.

In my nine years of covering football in Farmington, the Hawks have made the playoffs eight times, have a 25-3 record in playoff games, have been to the Silverdome for six state finals, and have won five of their overall seven titles.

So, while the usual November excitement faded early for the Hawks, it's been an enjoyable run, and nothing says it's finished.

In the department of coincidental information: Harrison should beware of teams with uniform colors of dark blue and gold and bearing nicknames from the family of big cats.

I mentioned earlier the Hawks have only lost three of 28 playoff games since I came on board.

The three teams to beat Harrison were Grand Rapids Catholic Central (Cougars), Oxford (Wildcats) and South Lyon (Lions).

I was pleased to see Allen Park advance to the Class BB football final.

The Jaguars have produced good teams year after year, but they have always fallen short in the playoffs.

That was due in part to the misfortune of having to play Harrison three times (1987, 1989 and 1991).

Harrison trounced everyone but Allen Park in the '91 playoffs, and I believe the Jaguars would have won the BB title that year if not for the Hawks.

I always liked interviewing Allen Park coach Ed Bellas, and he was always complimentary of Harrison's team and players before and after games.

So I'm happy his team is finally in the final, and I hope the Jaguars can clear one more major hurdle Saturday and beat East Grand Rapids.

I'm anticipating another defensive battle Saturday in the Class AA championship game between Catholic Central and Holt.

It appears the Rams are a lot like the Shamrocks. They don't always score a lot of points, but they play great defense.

Holt has won eight games by a touchdown or less and hasn't allowed more than two touchdowns in any game.

A Lansing reporter said the Rams won't back down from a challenge, and that's good news for all who hope to see a good, competitive game.

The Shamrocks are 3-3 in state finals, and history says the game could go either way. But I doubt Holt can contain CC's offense the whole afternoon.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP FOOTBALL
Saturday, Nov. 24
(CLASS AA CHAMPIONSHIP)
Reedford CC vs. Holt High
at Pontiac Silverdome, 1 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Nov. 22
Liv. Stevenson vs. Birm. Bro. Rice, Liv. Franklin vs. Midway High, at Livonia Stadium, 6 & 8 p.m., Liv. Churchill vs. W.L. Western at Lakeland Ice Arena, 6:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Nov. 22
OSU Lima at Schockcraft, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 25
Schockcraft at Siena Hts. JV, 5:15 p.m., Ohio Dominican at Madonna, 7:15 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Nov. 22
Lake Superior at Madonna, 7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 24
Madonna at Aquinas Tourney, TDA.
Saturday, Nov. 25
Lansing CC at Schockcraft, 1:30 p.m., Madonna at Aquinas Tourney, TDA.

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