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The Cougars had three turnovers, including an interception and a fumble recovery by Farmington's Todd Anthony. The deepest Garden City penetration in regulation was Farmington's 36 where Anthony recovered a fumble after passes of 22 yards to Nick Hubbs and 13 to Alan Marszalek.

"We worked our butts off all year, had a winning record and made it to the playoffs," Selter said. "We played a tough, hard game; we did everything we could. It came down to seven plays in overtime."

Each team gets four plays to try to score from 10 yards out in overtime. Garden City got the ball first, scoring on a 22-yard field goal by Scott Williams on fourth down.

An outstanding play on third down by Farmington defensive back Adam Kronk forced the Cougars to settle for the field goal.

Garden City junior tailback Mike Sparks gained 4 yards on first down and 3 more on second, giving the Cougars a third-and-3. Senior quarterback Rob Hudson tried to run around the right end on a bootleg, but Kronk, the only Falcon on that side of the field, made a solo tackle 3 yards behind the scrimmage line.

"That's his job," Bechtel said. "He has to come up and make that play."

Sparks, who had nearly 1,600 yards coming into the game, was held to 22 yards in 16 carries, including eight that resulted in negative or zero yardage.

Hudson was the Cougars' leading rusher, gaining 62 yards in nine attempts, including a 37-yard scamper on a quarterback draw in the first half.

Hudson completed seven of 16 passes for 76 yards and two interceptions, including one by Weber who returned the ball 18 yards to the Cougars' 13 early in the fourth quarter.

But the Garden City defense stayed on fourth-and-3 and the Falcons missed a 22-yard field goal that had a lot of distance but was wide right with 7:53 remaining, leaving the game scoreless.

The Cougars' defense had made an earlier stand on Farmington's previous possession as Hudson made a solo tackle in the open field on fourth-and-2, leaving the Falcons a yard short at the Garden City 28.

The possession was aided by a 15-yard, late-hit penalty against Garden City near midfield after a 10-yard catch by Cave.

The Cougars held the Falcons' offense to 141 total yards, 83 rushing and 58 passing. Garden City had 160 total yards, including 84 rushing.

■ (The Farmington) defense is tough, a lot tougher than I thought. But we didn't feel like we were the underdogs. Some might have thought that, but not us.'

Rob Hudson
—Garden City football player

Weber, facing a blind-side rush the whole game from Eric Suffien, completed five of 11 passes with no interceptions.

"Coach Selter has done an amazing job over there, and his team was very, very well prepared," Bechtel said. "We've rushed the ball well the last 10 weeks and a lot of credit goes to their kids."

Hudson has basketball and basketball season to look forward to but something will be missing.

"We didn't have much field position and (in overtime) we got it within the 10 and thought we could score (a touchdown)," Hudson said. "Their defense is tough, a lot tougher than I thought. But we didn't feel like we were the underdogs. Some might have thought that, but not us."



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BURGESS

Playoff action: Farmington's Grant Weber is tripped up by Garden City's Alan Marszalek in a game Friday. Weber had a net total of 15 yards rushing.

Rycerz from page B1

160 total yards and a field goal. "I think that was typical Farmington defense," Rycerz said. "We've shut down some major opponents and never let them in our end zone."

The play that set up Rycerz's score was an 8-yard run up the middle on second down by senior Mark Ostach with a shovel pass from Grant Weber.

"It's a play we practice, but we probably only ran it once this year," Ostach said. "We got a couple yards in the (Westland John) Glenn game."

"It was just a great play call. They hadn't seen it all game. The pitch was there and I turned

it up. I saw a couple Garden City players, and I tried to go for the goal line."

Then (senior Brian) Brinsden, Rycerz, myself and the offensive line powered it in. Once we held them to a field goal, we knew we were going to score with all our big backs and big linemen."

Farmington coach John Bechtel said the Falcons usually call for a quarterback sneak from the 2-yard line, but the players wanted to power the ball off tackle.

"Rycerz came over when we were going into overtime and said 'Coach, I want the ball.' Obviously, it's the biggest play of

the season," Bechtel said. "Josh Boyd is an all-league player at 165 pounds. In our league, that's something, and Brian Davies is a two-year starter."

"We really didn't pick a side. It's a balanced situation. Rycerz is the right halfback, so it was only natural that we run the ball to the left."

Bechtel couldn't say enough good things about the Cougars and how well they played.

"Garden City flat-out played outstanding," he said. "They were well prepared and well coached. They probably out-gained us (they did, 160-141).

"I thought we played pretty good defense, but so did they. Those kids were very well prepared. We hope to do them justice as we move on."

FALCONS TIE RECORD: With its eighth win Friday, Farmington tied a school record for single-season victories in the modern era.

The Falcons were 8-0 in 1950 and 1958. The 1999 Falcons can break that record with another playoff victory later this week.

Since Farmington began playing nine regular-season games in 1962, it has never won more than six games in a season. The Falcons were 6-3 in 1966, 1975, 1977, 1984 and 1994.

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