

O'Meara

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ers, Monroe Jefferson and Creston proved that.

By virtue of surviving that version of Murderer's Row, the Hawks certainly earned their 10th state title, upending the favored Polar Bears in the final.

"The last three weeks were as mentally exhausting as it can get, I'm ready for a vacation," Harrington said.

"I don't think there's a better way to leave football," senior Lou Hadley said. "This was like the perfect ending for our season. We pulled through it all. No one picked us to go as far as we did."

That sounds like a special season to me.

Falcons had big year, too

It was also quite a year for the Farmington Falcons, who were Lakes Division co-champs, Western Lakes Activities Association runners-up, Division II district champions and regional finalists.

It had been 41 years since the Falcons had a season as good as this one. Farmington was 8-4 and the last time the school's football team won eight games was 1958. It was so long ago crew cuts are back in style.

"We have no regrets; I don't think our kids do," Farmington coach John Bechtel said. "We were probably four plays away from being 12-0. That's not to say we were a 12-0 football team, but our kids played hard and the coaches coached hard. If you can say that, you have to feel good about what you accomplished."

"I think the exciting part for us was the fact we gave our community and our school something they sorely needed, and that was something to identify with. It was one of the most phenomenal things I've witnessed. I've never seen a following like we had at another school. It was so amazing and intense."

When Farmington's season ended Nov. 13 with a loss to the University of Detroit-Jesuit in the Division 2 state tournament, there was an outpouring of emotion on the Farmington sideline.

The Farmington players and coaches remained on the field

long after the game had ended. I sensed they didn't want to leave, finding it difficult to accept the fact it was all over. For the many seniors on the team, it would be the last time, too.

"It was a letdown but I don't think the emotions were so high because we lost or didn't win the state championship," Bechtel said. "The emotions came because there was some sense of finality."

"Eight of those seniors were on the varsity as sophomores. Those kids have worked so hard through a lot of obstacles — people telling them they can't be successful, you can't win games if you go to Farmington."

"They fought and worked hard for three years to change all that. The part that was most emotional was the fans saying goodbye to those kids who had given so much of themselves."

The eight seniors who were three-year varsity players and the rock of the football team were Mark Ostach, Brian Brinsden, Justin Milus, Scott Ryczer, Grant Weber, Todd Anthony, Ben Lukas and Dustin Gress.

Just as the Hawks do, the Falcons had a lot of other seniors who played key roles, too. They included Adam Kronk, Rory Crittenden, Kyle Damagalski, Brian Davies, Pat Klein, Josh Boyd, Adam Alspach, Tom Pascaris and Matt Webb.

While it was like being at a wake after the last football game, the Falcons have much more to look forward to during the 1999-2000 school year.

Those seniors I've mentioned, as well as other members of the football team, also play other sports, and I think Farmington will have two of the best wrestling and basketball teams in Observantia this winter because of their talent. The same should hold true for the track team next spring.

So keep your chin up, Farmington. It was a fine football season, with good memories of great games, but there's a lot more to be done before the Class of 2000 departs the scene.



Post-game celebration: Harrison players and coaches got together for a group photo after winning the Division 3 state title Saturday night. Many hold up three fingers, signifying the school's third straight state championship.

Hawks

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quick, 7-0 lead.

But the Hawks came right back to put points on the board with the first of two field goals by senior Kris Wong, who had first-half makes from 27 and 28 yards.

"It made me feel good, after they scored early, that we could go down and score, even though we only got a field goal," Harrington said. "I knew we could stay in the game."

The Harrison drive was kept alive when senior punter Brian Nelson passed to wide-open junior Chris Roberson for a 41-yard gain on a fake punt.

"That's an automatic," Harrington said. "If they don't cover the wideout, Nelson has a good arm and knows to throw the ball to him. He looked out there and saw he wasn't covered."

Harrison turned interceptions by senior Ryan Coyle and Nelson into short scoring drives, covering 41 and 34 yards for a 24-14 advantage.

Woods, who hammered the Creston defense on the off-tackle play all night, had consecutive

TD runs of 2, 1 and 3 yards in the first half. The last two followed a 28-yard TD run by Terry that put Creston on top, 14-10.

"When we watched film on them, they stopped everyone in the red zone," Woods said. "On three of my touchdowns, we ran the same play to the same (left) side. Coach thought that was the weaker side of the defense."

Wong's second field goal increased Harrison's lead to 27-14 with 2:16 left in the half, but Creston closed to 27-21 at halftime with a 30-yard TD pass to Lanard Latham, who had eight catches for 171 yards.

The Polar Bears took the lead, 28-27, with an 80-yard drive to start the third quarter. Latham, who caught three passes for 52 yards on the drive, made an 11-yard reception for the TD.

But the Hawks scored on their next two possessions to take a 42-28 lead early in the fourth quarter.

Senior Kent Taylor bounced outside when he could go

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Important points: Senior kicker Kris Wong kicked two field goals in the first half Saturday at the Silverdome.

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID

Farmington Public Schools will accept sealed bids for:

Media Furniture - Harrison High School

at the Lewis Schulman Administration Center, 32500 Shilwaukee, Farmington, MI 48336 until 1:30 P.M., Thursday, December 9, 1999 at which time they will be publicly opened and read for presentation to the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting. No oral, telephonic, telegraphic or facsimile proposals will be considered. No proposals will be considered after the time of closing of bids. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept any item in the bid; to accept or reject any or all bids; to waive any informalities therein, or for reasons of establishing uniformity, to award the contract to other than the low bidder.

A set of bid documents may be obtained by calling the purchasing department at (248) 489-3344.

Published: December 2 and 5, 1999

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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

1999 WINTER TAX

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Farmington Hills 1999 Winter Tax Bills will be mailed the first week of December. They are payable from December 1, 1999 through February 14, 2000 without penalty. A 4% penalty will be added starting February 15, 2000.

Delinquent 1999 Summer Tax Bills may be paid at City hall through February 29, 2000. Summer bills are now subject to a 4% penalty plus one-half per cent interest per month starting with September 1999.

The Treasurer's Office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for December 24 & 31 to accept payment. Payment may also be made at Farmington Hills or Farmington branches of Michigan National Bank or Metrobank. Payments made at the banks may be subject to an account relationship requirement and/or a processing fee. In addition, a night depository is available near the Eleven Mile Road entrance to City Hall and a drive-up drop box is located near the west end of the traffic island between City Hall and the Police Department.

Failure to receive a tax bill does not waive the tax or any penalties incurred.

Published: December 2, 1999



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