

Bryant sparks Hawks to big win

Ricky Bryant scored four touchdowns as Farmington Harrison won the battle of unbeaten football teams Saturday over Walled Lake Western, 35-13.

BY DAN O'MEARA
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The No. 1 on Ricky Bryant's football jersey seemed not only appropriate but full of symbolism Saturday.

Bryant was the one player most responsible for Farmington Harrison winning its showdown game with Walled Lake Western, 35-13.

The senior wide receiver caught three touchdown passes, breaking the Harrison career record, and returned a kickoff for another score.

"Ricky played one of the better games anybody has ever played here," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "It was vintage John Miller, Mill Coleman, Roy Granger."

"Nothing he does amazes me. I see him every day in practice, and those are the things he does. He's a big-play person."

The Hawks, ranked No. 1 in Class A, are now No. 1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division. Harrison is 3-0 in the division and 5-0 overall. Western is 2-1 and 4-1.

"I wanted to score so bad today; I wanted to come through so bad in this game," Bryant said. "This was the first big game we've played. The line blocked and Dave (Pesci) came through in the weather."

Quarterback Pesci deserved a large share of the credit, too, for standing in against a hard rush and getting the ball to Bryant in the wet, rainy conditions.

Pesci, who was sacked five times, completed nine of 15 passes without an interception for 216 yards and also ran for one touchdown.

"I started off a little shaky," said Pesci, who misfired on three straight passes early but connected on eight of his last 15 attempts.

"After I hit Ricky on the little corner out, it just started clicking from there. I was trying to make perfect throws and I didn't have to. I was trying too hard."

The passing game allowed Harrison to overcome a Western defense that was outstanding against the run, holding the Hawks to just 24 yards on the ground.



Grid stars: The two players who had the biggest impact for their respective teams Saturday meet head-to-head as Harrison's Ricky Bryant tries to bring down Western fullback Dave Johnson.

It also offset a bid day by hard-running Western fullback Dave Johnson, who rushed for 216 yards and a touchdown on 24 carries.

"Johnson had a great game," Herrington said. "A lot of times we thought we had him stopped and he kept going forward. He was outstanding."

The Warriors also lost four fumbles, including a costly turnover late in the first half that enabled the Hawks to take a 21-7 halftime lead.

"We had too many (turnovers); it's that simple," Western coach Chuck App said. "We came out here to win; we didn't win. Our goal is to win the

next four and get in the playoffs. "When you have setbacks, that's when you measure your character. Will we let that bother us? Will we practice harder? We'll probably become more dedicated and focused."

Bryant, who has 25 career touch-

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McErlean leads North

Lindsay McErlean met the state qualifying standard in two events Tuesday while contributing to North Farmington's 113-73 win over visiting Northville in girls swimming.

McErlean won the individual medley (2:17.66) and the backstroke (1:02.92). Sarah Paske was another double winner for the Raiders with firsts in the 200 freestyle (2:06.25) and the 500 freestyle (5:37.10).

McErlean also anchored two winning relay teams for the Raiders, who are 2-1 in Western Lakes Activities Association duals and 2-2 overall.

Nevra Alver and McErlean were teamed with Tara Grider and Kristen Burke in the medley relay (1:57.52) and with Lauren Turner and Melissa Navas in the 400 freestyle relay (3:53.39).

Burke and Alver also had individual victories in the butterfly (1:04.48) and the breaststroke (1:10.33), respectively.

The Raiders went 1-2-3 in the 200 freestyle with Turner placing second (2:07.0) and Navas third (2:07.87).

Other second places were achieved by Alver in the IM (2:18.24), Sara Armstrong, 50 freestyle (2:04); Turner, butterfly (1:06.25); and Grider, 100 freestyle (53.19) and backstroke (1:06.96).

Armstrong, Turner, Navas and Burke were second in the 200 freestyle relay (1:50.05), and Armstrong, Paske, Grider and Jennifer Bendick were second in the 400 freestyle relay (4:05.05).

Hockey skill lessons

The Farmington Hills Ice Arena is offering instructional lessons in stick handling on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.

Participants will practice puck handling and passing skills. No games will be allowed. Full equipment is required for youths 18 and under.

The program is open to youths 12 and older. The fee is \$7 per session or \$32 for five sessions.

For more information call the ice arena at 248-478-8800.

Baseball tryouts

*Tryouts for two new Little Caesars baseball teams will be Saturday, Oct. 10. The age groups are 10-and-under (Willie Mays) and 12-and-under (Pee Wee Reese). Call Bill Hardin at 562-4687 for times and field assignments.

*The Michigan Indians Baseball Club will have tryouts for its Willie Mays (10-and-under) travel baseball team, the 1999 season, at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, at Don Massey Field (at Haggerty and Plymouth roads). Players birthdates must be between Aug. 1, 1988 and July 31, 1989. For more information, call Mark Glover at (248) 349-3392.

Open house planned

SoccerZone of Novi will have an open house from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10. The event will include free practice, scrimmages and instructional time. There will also be contests and games with prizes.

Call the SoccerZone to schedule a free time slot. SoccerZone is located at Grand River and Meadowbrook roads. The phone number is (248) 374-0500.

Softball clinics

Madonna University softball coaches will conduct a series of clinics on five straight Sundays from Oct. 4 through Nov. 1 at the Ladywood High School field. The time will be 12:30-3 p.m. each Sunday.

The cost is \$5 per session. Pre-registration is not required. The clinics will emphasize hitting, fielding, pitching and catching.

The instructors will be Madonna head coach Al White, Country Day coach and Madonna assistant Curt White and North Farmington coach Dave Brubaker. For more information call Curt White at (734) 728-3074.

NFWB softball tryouts

Tryouts for the NFWB girls fast-pitch softball teams will be Sunday, Oct. 11, North Farmington High School.

The times are noon to 3 p.m. for the 18-and-under team, 3-6 p.m. for the 16-and-under team.

For more information call Rob Schrock at (248) 471-3688.

Marlins repeat as county champions

SWIMMING

entries. "I just stood back and said 'Wow. They're just putting it on the board here.'"

"The kids went about it in a very businesslike way. They just went out there and put the points on the board. In that way, they set the stage emotionally for everybody having a good day."

Downs believes the strong showing in the county meet bodes well for the Marlins as they look toward the state meet next month.

"I think it's an indication, especially for the relays," he said. "Our three relays are pretty good; two could be very, very good, and we have some quality people who are going score in the top six."

"We're looking to move up a little from sixth place last year. But it's hard to say about the state meet; we have a ways to go yet."

Gracy started by winning the 200-yard medley relay in which Amy McCullough, Elizabeth Posvar, Erin Downs and Kelly Carlin posted a 1:51.08 time.

The Marlins followed that with McCullough taking the first of two

individual firsts in the 200 freestyle (1:54.92). Furthermore, Carlin was fourth (1:58.47) and Elizabeth MacDonald fifth (1:59.16) in that event.

"That's 69 points out of the chute in the first two events," Downs said. The Marlins earned 32 for winning the relay and 37 more in the 200 freestyle. "That sent a message right off the bat."

Posvar continued the strong start by finishing second in the 500 individual medley (2:08.78) and tacking on an additional 13 points to the team total.

"That's a heckuva jump; that's 82 points going into event No. 4," Downs

Please see MARLINS, C2

Falcons edge Raiders to win girls city title

BY DAN O'MEARA
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The return of the public schools city meets offered two extremes in cross country competition Tuesday.

While North Farmington ran away with the boys title, the girls race couldn't have been any closer as Farmington edged North by a point, 28-29.

The Raiders had two of the top three runners and were the first team to put five girls across the finish line, but the Falcons still managed to eke out a victory.

"The kids were fired up for this one," Farmington coach Anne Badynee said. "We knew it would be a battle, and the score is evidence of that. It's a nice accomplishment for my kids."

Farmington's Megan Annarino was second, finishing between North's Heidi Frank, an easy winner in 21:27, and Karen Beek.

The key to winning was Kristin DeBorde, Becky Lidgely and Julie

X-COUNTRY

Power finishing fourth, fifth and sixth for the Falcons, respectively.

"We knew going in it would be a close meet, and we had to split up their pack," North coach Bill Pinnell said.

"In their last race, (the Falcons) had five or six girls within 58 seconds of each other. We had the first couple runners, but a good pack will definitely make a difference."

North's Kori Rothman, Amanda Dobkowski and Holly Stockton and Farmington Harrison's Lynn Andrzejewski (ninth) filled the next four spots before Fallon James clinched the win for Farmington.

"One thing we worked on in practice was getting our pack up there," Badynee said, adding the Falcons were without their No. 2 runner, Colleen Lockhart, who was sick.

Please see CROSS COUNTRY, C3



Team leader Megan Annarino led the Falcons to team victory.



Top runner: Heidi Frank was the girls individual winner.