

Wild affair ends in 52-40 triumph for Clarenceville

BY NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Clarenceville kept its Metro Conference title hopes alive Friday, surviving a three-hour, 19-minute marathon game with visiting Hamtramck to emerge a 52-40 winner.

The Trojans improved to 5-1 overall and 4-1 in the conference. The Cosmos dropped to 4-2 overall and 3-2 in the Metro.

"We still think we have a great chance," said sophomore Scott Wion, who had three touchdowns and a pair of two-point conversions. "We have to make sure we take care of business next week."

The game was full of highlight plays and statistics that help make career games. The teams combined for 928 yards of total offense and just two punts.

Clarenceville's offense was led by senior tailback Walter Ragland, who gained 211 yards on 27 carries, including an 18-yard touchdown run. Wion scored on receptions of 36 and 60 yards and returned an interception 81 yards for a touchdown.

Senior quarterback John Wallace also played well despite a sore ankle. He threw for 104 yards and scored on runs of 22, 1 and 53 yards.

Not to be outdone, Hamtramck's Aaron Brock pushed 34 times for 241 yards. The senior scored on runs of 15, 6 and 25 yards.

"This was a game full of big plays and poor tackling," Clarenceville coach Chuck Donaldson said. "We always felt our offense can play with anybody. Our defense had to play with two starters suspended."

Clarenceville's first scoring drive was set up after senior Mike Wion recovered a fumble at the Hamtramck 38. Five plays later, Wallace hit the younger Wion on a 35-yard bomb.

Hamtramck responded with a 60-yard drive aided by a 14-yard run on a fourth and 14 by quarterback Jason Popov. Brock capped the drive with a 15-yard run, and Popov converted the two-point conversion for an 8-6 lead.

After a 43-yard punt by Ragland, Wallace turned in a dazzling 22-yard scoring sprint, avoiding five Hamtramck tacklers, to set up a 15-yard touchdown pass to Wion for the two-point conversion.

It took the Cosmos 11 plays to tie the game at 14-14, as Popov scored on a two-yard keeper.

The Trojans needed only two plays to score again — a 38-yard run by Ragland, followed by a 24-yard scamper by freshman Tim Shaw. A 6-yard run by Brock tied the game at 20-20 midway through the second

FOOTBALL

quarter.

On Clarenceville's next possession, Ragland had a 35-yard touchdown run called back, but Clarenceville eventually scored when Wallace scored on a 1-yard sneak on a fourth-down play.

Hamtramck then went 62 yards in 19 seconds as Popov connected with Brock on a 20-yard pass play. Popov completed 11-of-29 passes for 180 yards. The game was tied 26-26 at half-time.

Clarenceville got a break to begin the second half when Wion's kickoff traveled only 10 yards and bounced back to the Trojans.

"It was a great call by me," Donaldson joked. "Actually, our kickoff return team hasn't been playing well and I'd rather let them start at their 40 than take the chance of them returning it."

Clarenceville lost the ball on downs, but got it right back on a Wallace interception. Ragland then gave the Trojans a 32-26 lead with an 18-yard run.

Wion stopped Hamtramck's next drive as he stripped Brock of the ball at the Clarenceville 47. On the very next play, Wallace outran the defense for a 53-yard scoring run.

It seemed as if the Trojans took control of the game later when Tony Racheon and Steve Rothenberger stopped Popov at the 3-yard line on a fourth-and-goal. But Wallace was called for a safety after grounding the ball in the end zone on the very next play.

The Trojan defense again stepped up as Wion stepped in front of a Popov pass and returned it 81 yards for a touchdown, which gave Clarenceville a 44-28 lead.

"The coaches had just told me to be ready for that play so when I saw it coming, I knew it would be six," Wion said.

The Cosmos refused to quit as the came back and cut the lead to 44-34 with 6:23 remaining on a 25-yard run by Brock.

Hamtramck got the ball back and received a break on a questionable pass interference call on Clarenceville. The Cosmos took advantage as Popov connected with Stanley Garbuez on a 16-yard scoring pass.

The Trojans got the game away when Wallace threw a jump ball to Wion. The 6-foot-3 receiver outleaped the defender then pushed him to the ground and ran 60 yards for the game's final touchdown.

"I have two older brothers and am used to playing that way," Wion said.

Senior softball champs



Seniors win pair of titles: Members of the 55-and-over Leon's Family Dining softball team are (front row, from left) Ron Hellier, Bill Kent, Jesse Soto, Mike Birt, Lonnie Galbraith, (second row) Jerry DiPaola, Chuck Hebestreit, Howard Moss, Jim Radiszewski, (back row) George Stirling, Pete Woodard, Al Moran, Jim Stark and Keith Emerson. Not pictured are manager Len Zundel, Joe Ference and Rich Landau. Leon's won the Oakland County Parks and Recreation league and tournament championships for the third consecutive year. Leon's was 14-2 during the regular season and 4-0 in the playoffs. The team also won the Can-Am Senior League title for the second year in a row. Leon's had a 27-6 record in the six-team Major Division for the best senior teams. Other members of the Leon's team competing in the Can-Am League are Bernie Miller, John Mardusz, Dave Racer, Dick Bunting, Ken Johnson, Mike Malack and Ed Hamacher.

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"We've been playing like that all year," Juncaj said. "This is not a team that's going to give up. We were down to Plymouth Canton and Livonia Churchill, and we didn't give up against the best teams in the state. We kept going to the end."

Tim Rais scored his 18th goal (10 assists) of the season a little more than a minute after Hearn's goal to create a 3-3 tie.

Stephen Wayne put the ball in front of the North goal with a free kick. Rais received it with his back to the goal, turned and hooked a shot into the corner of the net.

Shortly after Farmington's Andrew Buck hit the crossbar, Patrick Falcon gave the Falcons a 4-3 lead with 6 1/2 minutes left.

Dave Twendey angled the ball around the North defensive wall on a direct free kick, and Falcon rushed up to punch it into the net.

Though Farmington had the ball in the North end most of the second half, the Raiders got a break the other way in the final minute. Street banged in a header off a Brian Horr corner kick with 33 seconds remaining for a 4-4 final score.

"We thought Farmington won more than its share of 50-50 balls near midfield and was able to keep the ball down in our half," Meteyer said.

"We didn't go hard to the ball in the midfield the last 20 minutes. It was a sloppy field. On a dry field, I think we would've had a better time of it, but that's the way it goes."

"Both teams were ready for the game and played very hard," Juncaj said. "North controlled the ball a little more than we did in the first half. In the second half, we were definitely the bet-

ter team."

Farmington scored the first goal when Karl Lopata converted a penalty kick after North was called for a hand-ball infraction in the goal area.

"When the ball was kicked, some of the boys put their hands up in front of their faces, and the ball inadvertently hit a player on the forehead," Meteyer said.

"What I saw was a boy trying to protect himself. There was no intent to play the ball with his hand. That's not the same thing. But that's the way the ref called it, and I think it was the wrong call."

The Raiders forced a 1-1 half-time score with a goal by Street and assist from Hearn.

The game was played without a field referee and just two linesmen, a situation Juncaj said concerned him a great deal in the first half.

"The officiating was poor and things were starting to get out of hand," he said. "Fortunately, they were able to do a little better in the second half."

"It was a very intense game, and you must have that third official for a game like that. It was hard fought but, for the most part, a clean game on both sides."

Six minutes into second half, North took a 2-1 lead on a Viktor Juncaj goal following a Horr indirect kick.

Farmington's Nick Ramirez scored his eighth goal of the sea-

son to tie the score at 14:58. Jon Kambouris kept the ball alive with a header on the back line, centering it to Ramirez, who knocked it in.

Juncaj cited the play on defense of Justin Gerwotowski, Phil and Matt Gasparotto, Chris Holton, Wayne and Jeff Frederick.

Justin shut down one of the best forwards in our league, Craig Hearn, for the whole time Justin was on him," Juncaj said. "It was after Justin was out that Craig got his goal."

Both coaches agreed it was a good, exciting game and the rivalry, though intense, is a positive situation.

"The rivalry we have with North Farmington is good for soccer in Farmington," Juncaj said. "It reminds me of the rivalry they have in Livonia and the rivalry between Canton and Salem. It's good to see Farmington has two really good teams."

"Obviously, we wanted to win, but I'm not really disappointed. The kids played well in the second half and I'm very proud of them. After playing so well, the score is not important."

"I wish the Hearn goal had held up and we had no other goals except Street's," Meteyer said, "but Farmington played a good game. It was good for Farmington-Farmington Hills soccer all the way around."

Farmington's Nick Ramirez scored his eighth goal of the sea-

Marlins coast to victory

Elizabeth Posvar and Kristin Lorradas were double individual winners Thursday in Farmington Hills Mercey's 121-66 win over Birmingham Marian in girls swimming.

Posvar won the butterfly (1:02.06) and the breaststroke (1:11.69) while swimming her best times of the season.

Lorradas captured first place in the 200 freestyle (2:01.93) and the 100 freestyle (55.79).

SWIMMING

Posvar also participated along with Erin Downs, Annabelle Alberts and Amy McCullough in Mercey's victory in the medley relay (1:56.81).

Elizabeth MacDonald and McCullough anchored the winning 200 and 400 freestyle relay teams, combining with Kelly Carlin and Katie Matous in the 200 (1:45.92) and with Downs and Kaitlyn Jarzembowski in the 400 (3:50.76).

Carlin also won the individual medley (2:17.89) and Lauren Yagiela the 500 freestyle (5:27.01).

Hawks drop dual meet

Farmington Harrison won three events Thursday in a dual meet with Plymouth Canton, which earned a 132-64 victory at North Farmington.

Harrison's Lindsay Fetters was first in the 200 freestyle (2:01.65) and Julie Kluka in the 500 freestyle (5:26.75).

Fetters and Kluka teamed with Regina Bander and Laura Uridge to win the 400 freestyle relay (4:06.09).

The Hawks had second places from Fetters in the butterfly (1:04.25), Taylor Goad in the IM (2:34.74) and Kluka in the 50 freestyle (1:26.54).

Bander had a personal best of 1:03.53 in the 100 freestyle, and Uridge did likewise while swimming a leg of the 400 relay in 1:04.84. Leslie Pickering's time of 1:13.43 in the backstroke was her best also.

Canton's Teri Hanson won the 50 freestyle (1:26.30) and the 100 (57.31). Jaclyn Bernard the IM (2:25.24), Meghan Powers diving (1:17.05) Danielle Drysdale the butterfly (1:04.18), Meagan Dowd the backstroke (1:08.42) and Erin Rogala the breaststroke (1:17.33).

Drysdale, Rogala, Hanson and Bernard won the medley relay (1:59.45); Bernard, Hanson, Chelsea Odyke and Drysdale won the 200 freestyle relay (1:47.09).

SALEM, 10.11.98. GLEN 35: The victory ended Salem's dual meet record at 22 over and 1 in the WIAA's Lakes Division. Individual winners for Salem were Len McKay in the 200 yard freestyle (2:04.51), Kari Foust, IM (2:23.24); Sarah Rogers, 50 freestyle (1:26.53); April Aquino, diving (1:17.05); Lindsay Martin, butterfly (1:06.51); Kaitlyn Keri, 100 free (58.85); Jess Hala, 500 free (5:40.46); Stephanie Tyler, backstroke (1:07.11); and Alex Evans, breaststroke (1:17.96).

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cons ended up on the plus side for the game, 248-225.

In the third quarter, Stevenson pinned Farmington in its end with a punt but was penalized for illegal motion, forcing the Spartans to punt again. But the snap was low; the punter tossed the ball forward in desperation and Crittenden intercepted.

Instead of starting at its own 13, Farmington now had the ball at the Stevenson 43. On fourth-and-1 at the 22, the Falcons drew the Spartans offside to get the first down.

Farmington scored on the ninth play of the drive when Weber passed 13 yards to tight end Justin Mikus, who used his 6-foot-5 height to reach for the ball in the end zone.

The Spartans had one last chance when they recovered a

fumble at the Farmington 20 early in the fourth quarter, but they were stopped on downs at the 14.

The Falcons used up the last 7:58 with a ball-control rushing game, staying on the ground for the final 14 plays and five first downs.

Farmington had 119 yards rushing and was led by Brian Brinsden, who carried 10 times for 84 yards. Scott Rycerz had 12 carries for 37 yards, Mark Ostach six for 32 and Weber 11 for 20. Kneller was 1-of-11 passing for 36 yards.

Eight players carried the ball for Stevenson, which had 143 yards rushing and 82 passing. Waleed Haddad had 35 yards on 12 carries, Panisko 48 on three, Dan Wilson 27 on five. Ryan Van Belle was 4-of-10 passing for 44 yards.

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