

# Chiefs upset Rocks in season finale, 26-25

BY SCOTT DANIEL  
STAFF WRITER

For as long as he lives, Kirt McKee will never forget Friday night.

In the last football game of his career, he nailed a 27-yard field goal with four seconds remaining to give Plymouth Canton a 26-25 victory over arch-rival Plymouth Salem.

"I was so nervous," the senior said in lining up the winning kick. "But when I saw it go down the middle I was so happy I just about cried. This means so much."

To say Friday's contest was the best the cross-campus rivals have ever played wouldn't be a stretch.

Long runs, spectacular catches, fourth-down heroics and a dramatic on-side kick punctuated a terrific night of high school football. Canton coach Tim

## FOOTBALL

Baechler was in awe of his own team.

"It was an unbelievable show of guts," he said. "I'm so proud of these kids. Give them the credit. They've gotten their brains bent in a few times. But they always came back, practiced hard and stayed positive."

It would've been easy for Canton to give up early in the fourth quarter. Salem's Andy Kosloski scored on a one-yard run at 11:32 to give the Rocks a 25-16 lead.

The Chiefs took the following kickoff and started on their own 40-yard-line. Three short runs left Canton with fourth down and five yards to go on its own 45.

Baechler decided to go for it.

Quarterback Jay Schmitt calmly dropped back to pass. He connected with running back Jerry Gaines on a seven and the sophomore rumbled 18 yards down to Salem's 38-yard-line.

Nick Stonerook followed with a 23-yard run. Five plays later, Schmitt bootlegged around left end for a four-yard touchdown to make it a 25-23 game with 6:31 left on the clock.

That seemed like plenty of time to hold Salem, get the ball back and try for the winning score. But Baechler wasn't the patient.

After conferring with his coaching staff, he called for an on-side kick. Baechler said necessity forced the move.

"I really didn't think our defense could stop Salem," he explained. "I talked with our coaches and they all agreed. We had to do it."

Ryan Cooley made his coach look like a genius by recovering McKee's well-placed on-side kick. The Chiefs took over on Salem's 46-yard-line with 6:29 left.

The Rocks' defense looked ready for the challenge. After two three-yard gains, Salem stuffed Schmitt for a four-yard loss on third down.

That gave Canton fourth down and eight. Once again, Schmitt saved the day as he took a quick drop and hit Ian Riley in the numbers on a slant route for 12 yards and a first down.

The Chiefs then ran seven straight times and moved the ball to Salem's 10-yard-line. On fourth down and with just four measly ticks on the clock, McKee hit a laser beam through the uprights and the field soon became a sea of red.

"It feels very good," the senior

said of being the hero. "These are our cross-creek rivals. We know all of them."

The Chiefs finish the year at 3-6. Salem closed at 4-5.

Canton led 16-12 at halftime. Riley caught a 21-yard touchdown pass from Schmitt to open early in the fourth quarter. Salem made it a 7-6 game two minutes later as Jason Lukasik ran 46 yards for a TD.

The Rocks went up 12-7 at 7:02 of the second quarter. Lukasik got his second straight tally with a 19-yard burst over right end.

Stonerook put Canton back on top with a three-yard touchdown at 2:07. McKee tacked on three with his first field goal, a 43-yarder, with under a minute to go.

Salem took the lead back early in the third quarter. Quarterback Matt Fair rumbled 57

yards to make it a 19-16 game at 10:43.

The Rocks look to have the game under control. Salem stopped both of Canton's possessions in the third quarter.

Then Kosloski's touchdown early in the fourth put Salem up by nine. But it simply wasn't to be.

For his part, Baechler said his team was luck to win.

"The Salem kids played hard," he added. "We stole this one from them."

For the game, the Rocks wound up with 341 yards of offense — all on the ground. Lukasik finished with 161 yards on 16 attempts and Fair added 97.

The Chiefs had 349 yards of offense. Schmitt completed five of six passes for 95 yards. Stonerook led the ground attack with 110 yards on 23 attempts.

## Panthers complete perfect regular season

## FOOTBALL

The postpools were still standing at Howard Kraft Field Friday night, and that's good because there is a lot more football to be played there this year.

It's Redford Union's home field and the Panthers are hoping their 49-14 victory Redford Union, which accomplished both an undefeated regular season and the school's first-ever playoff berth, was enough to give them home-field advantage in the first round of the Class A playoffs.

If the Panthers don't host, Howard Kraft still may host games played by Redford St. Agatha, a Class D qualifier, and Detroit Catholic Central, which was hoping to qualify in Class AA.

Playoff details will appear in Thursday's Observer.

As of press time the Panthers were awaiting word on whether they would host or be playing away from home in a first-round Class A state playoff game, likely Friday night.

The Panthers entered the final week third in Class A Region, less than a percentage point behind Dearborn, which finished the season on Saturday against Dearborn Edsel Ford. The higher-seeded team hosts the first-round game.

Although a lot was at stake in the regular-season finale, RU coach Glenn Scala said the Panthers treated it like business as usual.

Kennedy finished the year 1-8 overall.

"A lot of alumni were here watching and it was a great feeling for everyone to go 9-0," Scala said. "But all the players were on an even keel still. Now they have a new goal in mind and that's the playoffs."

"Usually we're already worried about inventory. Right now we're just worried about who we're playing in the playoffs."

Junior tailback Mike Macek had his best game of the year, rushing for 240 yards in 13 carries and four touchdowns. He now had 17 touchdowns which is a new, varsity single-season record for RU, three more than the previous record he set last year.

"It was impressive for the fact he just outran everybody," Scala said. "We left him in the game until the fourth quarter just to get his 200 yards and he got it."

Macek had two previous 200 yard games this year and now has nearly 1,350 yards, about 60 shy of the RU single-season record.

The Panthers took the opening kickoff and scored with 9:11 left in the first quarter on Macek's 32 yard run. Rigley threw a two-point pass to Andy Mulligan for an 8-0 lead after the snap for the extra point was low.

RU's second score came when Rigley went over on a one-yard sneak with 3:32 left, capping a 35-yard drive started by Adrian Beaver's fumble recovery.

Dave Martin's extra point made the lead 15-0.

An interception by Rigley set up Macek's 43-yard run with 11:42 left in the second quarter. The extra point missed, leaving the score 21-0.

After the RU defense stalled a Kennedy drive at the Panthers' 11, Macek took a pitch and raced 89 yards for a touchdown and a 27-0 lead with 6:28 left in the

half. Kennedy got on the board with a 3-yard run to cap a 65-yard drive, cutting its deficit to 27-7. The Panthers made the lead 34-7 at halftime when Eric Carmichael fell on a fumble in the end zone after Jeff Stewart's progress was stopped just before crossing the end zone.

Beaver ran back the opening kickoff of the second half 85 yards for a touchdown to raise the lead to 40-7. A bad snap forced Macek to throw to Clint Stroble for the two-point conversion and a 42-7 RU lead.

A 9-yard touchdown run closed out Kennedy's scoring in the fourth quarter, and Macek finished RU's scoring with a 37-yard run in the fourth quarter.

Kennedy moved the ball mostly through the air, completing 11 of 26 passes for 160 yards.

Rigley completed two of eight passes. Three completed passes, including one for a touchdown to Macek, were called back for penalties.

TRENTON 34, FRANKLIN 21: Trenton (9-0) scored 27 unanswered points during the second quarter Friday en route to a season-ending victory at Livonia Franklin.

It appeared Franklin (18) might be able to pull an upset early as the Patriots struck paydirt first on a 2-yard run by senior Ryan Shuplett. Senior Dave Scieluna added the extra point.

Joe Ruggiero paced the Franklin offense by completing 14 of 26 passes for 178 yards. Shuplett led the rushing attack with 65 yards on 16 carries. The Patriots had 27 first downs to Trenton's nine, but was outgained in total offense 296-218. Dave Painter had an interception for Franklin.

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## CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING MAP AMENDMENT

DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 1998

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Farmington Hills City Hall  
31555 Eleven Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

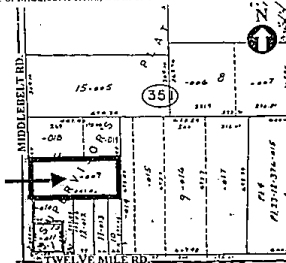
ITEM: Rezoning Request 8-9-98

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Farmington Hills Planning Commission will give formal consideration to a proposed amendment to the official Zoning Map of the City of Farmington Hills by amending Section 34.32 of the City Code by changing the zoning classification of the following parcel of property as follows:

Rezone from RA-1A, One-Family Residential District classification to SP-1, Special Purpose District classification.

Sidewalk #23-12-351-009

A part of the West 1/2 of Section 12, T1N, R9E, City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan. The property concerned is commonly known as 25024 Middlebelt Road, located on the east side of Middlebelt Road, north of Twelve Mile Road.



The proponent in this matter is Carl Simcox who seeks this rezoning in order to construct an Assisted Living/Elderly Care facility.

Any person who is interested in this proposed zoning map amendment is invited to participate in the discussion of the proposed zoning change at the public hearing above mentioned. Copies of the Zoning Text, Zoning Map, and Application for Rezoning may be reviewed at the Planning Office, Farmington Hills City Hall at 31555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan on any business day between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

DALE A. COUNTEGAN, Director  
Planning & Community Development  
City of Farmington Hills

Item: ZR 8-9-98  
Phone: (248) 473-9543  
Publish: November 1, 1998

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