

Falcons finish 2nd in CD tournament

Farmington has started the boys soccer season with a 3-1 record, following a win Monday night and a good performance in the Country Day tournament Friday and Saturday.

"I think we're going to continue to do quite well," Falcons coach Luke Juncj said. "We do have a young team, but we have to improve with every game."

"Hopefully, that will happen. The boys are working hard, and they're serious about having another good year. They're hungry for more success."

Nick Ramirez scored the winning goal with 12 minutes remaining Monday as the Falcons defeated host Bloomfield Hills Andover, 2-1.

He was awarded a free kick from 20 yards, and he sent a hard shot over the wall and into the upper corner of the net away from the Andover goalie.

Following a scoreless first half, Farmington's Matt Okopyk took a pass from Ramirez and dribbled up the field, firing a shot from the left-center area for the first goal.

"It was a perfect shot in the corner," Juncj said. "The Barons tied the score with 25 minutes to play, and it remained tied until Ramirez broke the deadlock."

"We had possession for the most part," Juncj said, "but they had some speed on offense and they were pretty dangerous on counter attacks."

Farmington took 11 shots at the Andover goal, while Farmington keeper Andrew Martin made six saves.

The Falcons began the Country Day tournament Friday by beating Bloomfield Hills Lahser, 2-1.

Matt Konopinski scored both goals with assists from

SOCCER

Ramirez and Joe Russo. Farmington led 2-0 after one half.

"In the second half, we didn't play very well," Juncj said. "We kinda drew down in the middle field and on defense. Lahser had quite a few chances, but we were able to keep them to one goal."

The Falcons played much better Saturday when they faced Country Day and won, 3-0. Okopyk scored a goal and had two assists; Russo and Jeff Durrow also scored, and Ramirez had an assist.

"It was a huge difference between the Lahser and Country Day games," Juncj said, adding the Falcons had never beaten the Yellow Jacks.

"Last year we were the best team in the tournament and lost to Country Day in a shootout. It was a big win for us. We really felt good about that game and the way we played."

Farmington lost in the championship game, however, as Northville claimed a 4-2 victory later that day.

Okopyk tied the score at 1-1, but Farmington gave up three goals within a span of several minutes early in the second half. Konopinski scored his team's second goal in the final five minutes.

"In every aspect, it was a very even game," Juncj said, "but corner kicks, everything but goals," Juncj said. "We had a few lapses in the back, and we didn't get any breaks at all."

"But we feel good about what we did at this tournament. A lot of people didn't expect us to be very strong this year, because we lost a lot of good players."

"We proved we still have a very competitive team."

Grid picks? Let's give it some thought



DAN O'MEARA

It's times such as this I recall some advice Mr. Motz gave me many years ago. A man of average height with a thin build, glasses, crew cut and serious demeanor, Mr. Motz was one of the coaches when I played eighth-grade

football.

So one day the team is lined up to do an agility drill. I'm at the left end of the second row, paying little attention to what is happening on my right.

The next thing Mr. Motz is blowing his whistle, bringing the entire exercise to a halt, and now he's shouting my name.

"O'Meara! O'Meara!" Uh, oh. I'm in trouble now, I thought. But what did I do? "Are you too good for the rest of us?" he yelled. "Are you so good that you don't have to do this with us?"

Oops! The problem was ... I didn't do anything. While my teammates became more agile, I stood there, as Ernie Harwell says, like the house by the side of the road.

"Uh, no, coach," I replied. "I thought we were doing this one row at a time."

"That's the problem with you, O'Meara," he fired back. "You think too much!"

And now it's time to do Grid Picks and Mr. Motz comes to mind, because I'm thinking real hard about my picks.

I'm poring over stats, compar-

ing scores and checking to see what teams did last week, last year, heck, even last century!

It's a case of analysis paralysis, brain drain. Yes, I know; I'm thinking too much about making all the right calls.

I should do as a running back does when he sees the hole and just cut to the chase.

As a linebacker does when he knows where the play is going, I should just react to the matchup. So I've given it enough thought (thank you, Mr. Motz). It's time to make my picks but, first, here's the Observer tally heading into Week 2.

Following a Romulus forfeit to Wayne, Brad Emmons, Paul Beaudry and I are tied for first place at 13-3. C.J. Risak is 11-5.

THURSDAY GAMES

(All games 7:30 p.m., unless noted)
E. Catholic at Luth. Westland, 4: Emmons was the only one to pick the Warriors last week, and he was rewarded for it when Luth. Westland, 4-0, defeated E. Catholic 1-0. Pickers: Emmons, Westland — O'Meara, Beaudry, Emmons, Risak.

Dearborn at Wayne, 7: Both teams are in the Mega White this year after being demoted from the Red Division. The Pistons (1-0) eked out a 7-0 win over Livonia Stevenson; Wayne (1-0) was a forfeit winner over Romulus, which used an ineligible player. PICKS: Dearborn — O'Meara, Beaudry, Emmons, Risak.

Farmington at W.L. Westland: The Falcons (0-1) will try to rebound from their loss to Ann Arbor Pioneer. Farmington gave up three goals in the first half. Pickers: Farmington — O'Meara, Beaudry, Emmons, Risak.

Hagerwood at Clarenceville: It's an early-season showdown in the Metro Con-

ference as the defending champion Trojans play host to the Pioneers, who were the team until Clarenceville got better. Both are 1-0. A good ballyhoo? Maybe. But Harper Woods is still no match for the likes of Tim Shaw and Steve Meadows. PICKS: Clarenceville — O'Meara, Beaudry, Emmons, Risak.

FRIDAY GAMES

(All games 7:30 p.m., unless noted)
W.L. Lakes Division champion — lost to Milford. But the word is the Redskins are much improved this year under coach Pat Fox. The Chargers (1-0), meanwhile, have more reason to boast after winning their opener over R.U. PICKS: Central — O'Meara, Beaudry, Emmons, Risak.

Liv. Stevenson at Liv. Franklin: You might have thought the records would be reversed on this one, too. The Spartans (0-1) lost a close game to Dearborn after a blocked punt led to the only TD late in the fourth quarter. The Patriots (1-0) came from behind to beat Lincoln Park in coach Chris Kelbert's debut. PICKS: Stevenson — O'Meara, Emmons, Risak; Franklin — Beaudry.

Westland Glenn at Northville: Question for my compadre, Beaudry, Rockat Boy Chucky! Maybe "Coach Gordon" will give you the benefit of the doubt and assume your fingers just sorta slipped on the keyboard. The Rockets (1-0) deserve a little more respect following their win over Detroit Kettering. And they had it from everyone but Paul, who was the only one to pick Kettering. Glenn has another tough game this week against 1-0 Northville. PICKS: Glenn — O'Meara, Beaudry, Emmons, Risak.

St. Agatha vs. St. Alphonsus-Urban Lutheran, 6 p.m. at St. Alphonsus: It gets better for the Aggies (0-1), who are back home after losing at Battle Creek St. Philip to play that new interdenominational, combo (as we call it) Catholic and Protestant (as we call it) St. Agatha. And who says Catholics and Lutherans can't see eye to eye? PICKS: St. Agatha — O'Meara, Beaudry, Emmons, Risak.

St. Mary's at St. Mary's: The two-time defending Division 4 state champion, began its 2001 season with a shutout win in the annual Prep Kickoff Classic Saturday afternoon at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Senior fullback Brad VanGorder gained 91 yards on the ground — 42 coming on a touchdown run — and made 10 unassisted tackles from his linebacker position for the Eagles.

St. Mary's returns to the field Friday evening at Detroit Country Day.

Shamrocks overcome T.C. West on gridiron

Redford Catholic Central held off a second-half rally by Traverse City West at the Silverdome to come away with a 37-17 win in the football season opener Saturday.

The Titans pulled to within 24-17 with 4:15 left in the quarter as Kevin Kipke had a 7-yard TD run and Brad Vance added a 36-yard field goal.

But CC came back as Ryan Rogowski ran 37 yards for a touchdown and added a 2-yard TD run on the next drive — set up by the second of two Tom Jakacki interceptions — to close out the scoring.

The Shamrocks took the lead on their second play from scrimmage as Derrick Brooks went 36 yards for the TD. West tied the score at 7-7 with Adam Totten's 2-yard run.

But CC took the lead for good on the next drive as Jakacki scored on a 14-yard TD run for a 14-7 lead.

Jakacki picked off a pass to set up the next score — a 34-yard field goal by Rogowski.

West turned the ball over again as Blaine Naymish recovered a fumble, which led to Jakacki hitting Ryan Wroblewski with a 26-yard TD pass for a 24-7 CC lead at half.

The Shamrocks racked up 340 yards in total offense to 213 for the Titans.

Brooks led CC on the ground with 123 yards on 17 carries, while Rogowski added 53 yards

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and Mike Bannazak 25. Jakacki was 4-of-12 passing for 98 yards.

Mike Clary led the defense by figuring in 10 tackles; Rogowski was in on nine and Brad Jarzembowski and Jeff Goblinski were in on eight.

CC plays at East Lansing (0-0) on Friday night.

BROTHER RICE 21, CASS TECH 6: After losing 39 seniors to graduation, Brother Rice's football team entered the 2001 season with a few question marks.

Coach Al Fracassa had some of them answered in a positive way Saturday. Playing in the annual Prep Kickoff Classic at the Pontiac Silverdome, the Warriors opened the season with a 21-6 victory over Detroit Cass Tech.

Brother Rice took an 8-0, first-quarter lead when Al Gioutos scored a 6-yard run. The Warriors pulled off a fake kick as sophomore quarterback Doug Pickens, the holder, tossed a pass to Paddy Lynch for the two-point conver-

sion.

The Warriors held that lead at halftime, but Cass Tech roared back in the third quarter when Robert Height returned the second-half kickoff 95 yards to the Rice 5-yard line.

Curtis Woolfolk then ran in from 5 yards out. The Technicians missed the extra point and trailed, 8-6.

Later in the third quarter, Pickens hit Gioutos with a 21-yard TD pass. Rice completed the scoring in the final quarter when Jason Horton scored on a 5-yard run.

Rice finished with 196 total yards, 152 of which was rushing yardage. Pickens completed five passes for 44 yards, and Gioutos rushed for 80 yards.

Anthony Jackson caught two passes for 18 yards. Jeff Allen had two interceptions, while Rice teammate Pat Stachowiak had one.

Rice is idle this week and next plays Sept. 8 at Birmingham Gloves against the University of Detroit.

CLARENCEVILLE 31, LUTH. NORTH 7: The Division 6 state finalists from a year ago got off to a slow start Friday, but they outscored Lutheran North in the second half, 24-7, as senior running back Tim Shaw had 186 yards in 14 car-

ries, including three touchdowns.

The Trojans, coming off a 12-1 season, led 6-0 at halftime, and Shaw scored on a 60-yard run to start the second half.

Steve Meadows added 103 yards in nine carries and was a demon defensively at linebacker.

"Steve was all over the field tonight," Clarenceville coach Greg Hudkins said. "Our young offensive line struggled in the first half."

"North was really coming at us defensively from all angles. So we went away from the more difficult stuff we run and just used our base-blocking (schemes) against them in the second half."

ST. MARY'S 21, DETROIT DENBY 0: Orchard Lake St. Mary's, the two-time defending Division 4 state champion, began its 2001 season with a shutout win in the annual Prep Kickoff Classic Saturday afternoon at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Senior fullback Brad VanGorder gained 91 yards on the ground — 42 coming on a touchdown run — and made 10 unassisted tackles from his linebacker position for the Eagles.

St. Mary's returns to the field Friday evening at Detroit Country Day.

Raiders from DI

"Alex guessed (Stern) would shoot it the same way," Meteyer said. "He guessed right and stopped it."

West Bloomfield attempted more shots than North (11-5), "but most of their shots were from far out; so they were not much of a threat to us," Meteyer said, adding the Raiders adjusted to a trapping defense and handled it well.

"To their credit, (the Lakers) have a much improved team. I can't recall a team that has made as much progress in a few years as that team has. They're much more balanced than they were."

Meteyer added Mike Leach and Sermet Alver were standouts on defense, and Mike Buchwald played well when he was in goal, too.

"I was very pleased with the way everybody played," he said.

A.A. PIONEER 1, REDFORD CC 0: Catholic Central struggled on offense all game and wound up on the short side of a 1-0 decision against Ann Arbor Pioneer at Miles Field in Livonia.

"We didn't play as well as I'd hoped," said CC coach Dana Orsucci. "It just seemed we didn't play with a whole lot of confidence and couldn't get things rolling. We struggled to connect on passes and we didn't have a whole lot of offense to shore things up."

Pioneer got the only goal it would need in the 14th minute on a breakaway on CC goalie Ryan Koel, who did make a 1-1 save in the game.

"He was the best player we had on the field today," said Orsucci, whose team struggled to muster four shots on goal. "He really kept us in the game."

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