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## Playoffs enter prep picture



DAN  
O'MEARA

It's nearly the end of September, and we're half way through the high school football season. The regular season, that is. It will soon be time to start thinking about the second season - the playoffs. Indeed, some teams will be this week.

Three area teams can lock up post-season berths with a sixth consecutive win. They are Farmington Harrison, Livonia Clarenceville and Redford Bishop.

It will be a state-record 20th appearance in the playoffs for Harrison, a fourth straight for Clarenceville and a first for Bishop.

Westland John Glenn and Plymouth Canton are 4-1 and could move a step closer to qualifying with their fifth wins this week.

A pair of 3-2 teams - Redford Catholic Central and Lutheran High Westland - are still very much in the running, too.

On the grid prediction front, Plymouth-Canton Sports Editor C.J. Risk took the show last week and moved out of the cellar.

Risk fared the best among the four Observer sports writers, going 12-1 by correctly picking Birmingham Brother Rice to beat CC.

Brad Emmons (Livonia-Westland) and yours truly (Farmington) were 11-2, and Paul Beaudry (Redford-Garden City) was 10-3.

Emmons remains the overall leader with a 62-11 record. I'm three games back (59-14); Risk, who moved in front of Beaudry, is five games off the pace (57-16) and Beaudry, who is headed for a Week Nine writing assignment, six games (56-17).

#### FRIDAY GAMES

(all times 7:30 p.m. unless noted)  
Wayne at Ypsilanti, 7: Wayne (2-3) had a two-game winning streak snapped by Garden City in a Mega Conference crossover, 22-6. It's back to the Mega White this week to face Ypsilanti (3-2). Which is riding a three-game win streak

after starting the season with losses to two very good teams - Plymouth Canton and Allen Park. PICKS - Ypsilanti: O'Meara, Beaudry, Emmons, Risk.

Crestwood at Redford Union, 7: Crestwood crushed Dearborn Heights Annapolis, 61-14. Saturday to improve its record to 2-3, which is slightly better than RU's 3-4 mark. Both teams are in the Mega Blue this year after Crestwood moved up from the Gold and RU dropped down from the White. Flip a coin: It's a toss-up. PICKS - Crestwood: Beaudry, Emmons, Risk.

River Rouge at Thurston, 7 p.m.: Both teams are 2-2 in the Mega-Blue Division and 3-2 overall. Rouge had been doing well until it lost to previously winless Gibraltar Carleton last week, 12-8. The Eagles, meanwhile, gave preseason Blue favorite Trenton a tough battle only to lose by a field goal, 3-0. PICKS - Thurston: O'Meara, Beaudry, Risk; Rouge: Emmons.

N. Farmington at Farmington, 7: Record-wise, these teams appear to be pretty even. North is 1-4, Farmington 0-5. But the Raiders, who defeated Plymouth Salem for the only win, have played well the last two weeks in losses to Lakes Division powers Walled Lake Central and Westland John Glenn. The Falcons are coming off an 18-12 loss to Salom. PICKS - North: O'Meara, Beaudry, Emmons, Risk.

Liv. Churehill at Ply. Canton: The Chargers (1-4) held nationally-ranked Farmington Harrison, the No. 1 team in Michigan, to a 33-0 victory, but they couldn't capitalize on five turnovers to put points of their own on the board.

The Chiefs (4-1) rebounded from their loss to Harrison with a 28-12 win over Franklin and are headed for a showdown next week with Walled Lake Western for second place in the WLAA Western Division. PICKS - Canton: O'Meara, Beaudry, Emmons, Risk.

Ply. Salem at Liv. Stevenson: The Rocks (1-4) gave first-year coach Bob Cummings his first victory last week with a win over Farmington. The Spartans (2-3) hope to rebound and even their record at .500 following a 31-13 loss to Walled Lake Central. PICKS - Stevenson: O'Meara, Beaudry, Emmons, Risk.

W.L. Western at Liv. Franklin: The Patriots (2-3) played pretty well in their loss to Canton, and they'll need the same kind of effort this week. Franklin faces another WLAA Western Division power in the Warriors (4-1), who unloaded their frustrations on Northville. PICKS - Western: O'Meara, Beaudry, Emmons, Risk.

John Glenn at W.L. Central: For all intents and purposes, this game will decide the WLAA Lakes Division title and determine which teams face Harrison for the league championships in two weeks. With two division games to play,

both are 3-0 and 4-1 overall. Central has won four straight since losing to Milford in the opener, and Glenn owns a three-game winning streak. PICKS - Glenn: Beaudry; Central: O'Meara, Emmons, Risk.

Farm. Harrison at Northville: OK, let's see now. Harrison beats Walled Lake Western, 44-0, and then Western beats Northville, 44-0. So that means the Hawks should win this game, 88-0? Maybe Harrison should schedule some other Mustangs, like the ones from Southern Methodist University! PICKS - Harrison: O'Meara, Emmons, Risk, Beaudry; SMU: None.

Garden City at Allen Park: The Cougars (2-3) ended a three-game losing streak with their 22-6 victory over the Wayne Memorial Zebras, but it's back to the Mega Red Division this week. Allen Park (4-1) had a four-game winning streak stopped by Monroe, 27-24. PICKS - Allen Park: O'Meara, Beaudry, Emmons, Risk.

Luth. Westland at Clarenceville: All things considered, Lutheran Westland is having a better season than might have been expected. The Warriors snapped a two-game losing streak and are 3-2 overall after beating Lutheran East, 15-0. But a Lutheran Westland winning streak is unlikely since this week's opponent is unbeaten and state-ranked Clarenceville (5-0), the defending Metro Conference champion. PICKS - Clarenceville: O'Meara, Beaudry, Risk, Emmons.

#### SATURDAY GAMES

Detroit Loyola at Borgess, 1: These are two teams headed in opposite directions, and that trend will likely continue this week. Enjoying its best season in many years, state-ranked Bishop Borgess is 5-0 while Loyola is 0-5 following a 49-0 loss to Royal Oak Shrine. PICKS - Borgess: O'Meara, Beaudry, Emmons, Risk.

Redford CC vs. UD at Kew-Forest Stadium, 7: The Cubs aren't the pushover they have been in the past, so the Shamrocks will have to earn what they get. Victory won't come easily. UD improved to 3-2 by beating DeLaSalle, and CC dropped to 3-2 after losing to Brother Rice, 21-14. The Cubs had the Warriors on the ropes a couple weeks ago, but Rice rolled for a 21-20 win. PICKS - CC: Beaudry, Emmons, O'Meara, Risk.

Ecce vs. St. Agatha at RU's Kraft Field, 7: Could it be the Red Raiders (0-4) popped up on the schedule at just the right time for St. Agatha? Agatha remained winless after taking a 39-8 hit from Toledo Christian, but the Aggies (1-4) haven't been doing so well themselves, losing three in a row. The latest was a 9-6 loss to Holy Redeemer in which the Lions kicked a last-second field goal. PICKS - St. Agatha: O'Meara, Beaudry, Emmons, Risk.

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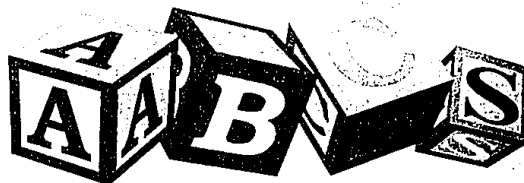
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