

Raiders finish season with 29-6 win

By DAN O'MEARA
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FOOTBALL

A shutout would have been nice, too, but it mattered little when White Lake Lakeland's Brandon Nappo scored late in the football game.

North Farmington had the victory wrapped up long before that in its season finale Friday night, ending the 2001 campaign with a 29-6 triumph.

It was a good ending for a program that has struggled in the recent past but showed signs of making a comeback this year.

The Raiders, who lost three games by less than 10 points and were in all but the first two, finished with a 3-6 record.

"I can't explain it; it's wonderful," said senior receiver Brian Johns, who scored two touchdowns Friday. "I'm a little tired now, but I'm filled with emotion and joy. It's a good feeling to see it all go."

"We were sick of getting blown out and came together as a team. Last year we were a little down; this year we turned it around, and next year I think they'll do well."

Johns is one of 15 seniors whom coach Rich Burrell gives credit for making the Raiders more competitive this year. Five played on the varsity three years — Troy Anderson, Justin Cook, Johns, Eugene Franklin and Justin Kangorika.

"I have to say thank you to our seniors, because they had a choice to build or tear down and they chose to build," Burrell said.

"They chose to play with Raider pride, and they showed a physical and mental toughness we haven't had the last couple years."

"The seniors will be hard to replace, not just because of talent but also attitude. They were incredibly coachable and they never quit."

North was in control of the scoreboard, if not always the game situation, from the start Friday after Cook made an impressive run 43 yards up the sideline for a touchdown on the opening possession.

A high snap on the extra-point attempt resulted in holder and quarterback Bryan Smith passing to Cook for two points and an 8-0 lead at 9:35 in the first quarter.

The Raiders recovered an Eagles fumble but had a fourth-down pass intercepted. But their next possession produced the first Johns TD.

On first down, Johns got the call on a quick counter play, and the whole right side was wide open for him. The result was a 48-yard TD run and a 15-0 lead following Jon Moll's PAT.

"That was a play we put in just for this game," Johns said. "The linemen worked hard and got it down. They opened a huge hole, and all I had to do was run."

It was a big-play night for the Raiders, who led 22-0 at halftime when Marcus McComb returned an interception 65 yards for another TD at the start of the second quarter.

"The secondary had something to prove after last Saturday," Burrell said, referring to a 41-34 loss to Northville in which North had a 27-6 halftime lead. "They were disappointed in their performance, so they were ready to change things around."

Sean Waits and Zach Agosta also had interceptions for the Raiders; Steve Kahn had a fumble recovery and Aaron Drury three second-half sacks.

North had to make a couple defen-

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FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

YMCA coed volleyball

The Farmington YMCA Coed Recreational Volleyball League will begin play on Monday, Oct. 29.

League play will last six weeks with a tournament to follow in the seventh week. Games will be played 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Players must be 16 and older (photo ID required); teams can have six to 10 players. The team fee is \$200. Membership is not required.

To sign up or receive additional information call Misty at the YMCA at (248) 553-4020, ext. 257.

CYO hoop tryouts

Tryouts for the St. Fabian CYO basketball teams are scheduled for the week of Oct. 29 in the school gymnasium at 32200 West 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

Boys and girls interested in participating in the program are urged to attend both of the tryouts listed for their grade. Eligible players must be one of the following: a student or parishioner of St. Fabian, a parishioner of St. Claire or a parishioner of St. Columban.

The times and dates are — 7th-8th boys: 3:30-5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 29; and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 30; 7th-8th girls: 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 30; and 6-6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 31; 5th-6th boys: 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 29; and 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2; 5th-6th girls: 6:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1; and 6:30-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2.

Used equipment sale

The Northville Community Center at 303 W. Main St. will have a one-day sale on all types of used sports equipment and clothing 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 10.

Equipment should be taken to the community center 2-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9. The seller determines the price; the community center will sell the item for a percentage (25 percent).

Price tags can be obtained at the Recreation Center Office at Hillside, located at 700 W. Baseline Rd. For more information call that office at (248) 349-0203.

Flyers hockey tryouts

The Farmington Flyers Unified hockey team will have a pre-tryout meeting for all players who are interested in trying out for the varsity team at 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 29, at Farmington High School.

All interested players must have a physical form on file with their high school, or they won't be allowed to participate in the tryouts. Players can bring a completed form to the Oct. 29 meeting.

The tryout dates will be 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 30; 3:30-5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1; and 4-5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2. All tryouts will take place at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills.

The cost will be \$15 cash per tryout. Each player must wear a neck guard. For more information call Leah Calagias at (248) 553-0608 or send an email to evelde@aol.com.

Prep pairings on TV

The Michigan High School Athletic Association will release its football playoff pairings at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21, on Fox Sports Detroit.

The Selection Sunday Show will carry the first announcement of qualifiers and pairings in all eight classes.

The approximate times for the pairings will be 6:45 p.m. for Divisions 7 and 8; 7 p.m. for Divisions 4 and 5; 7:15 p.m. for Divisions 3 and 4; and 7:30 p.m. for Divisions 1 and 2.

The information will also be released on the MHSAA's Website — www.mhsaa.com. Host schools will provide game dates and times to the MHSAA for posting to the site on Oct. 22 at noon and 4:30 p.m.

Farmington's top runners in league meet



Hawks lead the way: Farmington Harrison junior Brian Coats and senior Christine Metry led the way for Farmington Public Schools in the Western Lakes Activities Association cross country championship races Friday at Kensington Metropark. Coats was the top finisher from a Farmington school in the boys race, finishing 17th overall, and Metry had the best performance by a Farmington female, taking 10th place in the girls meet. Livonia Churchill won the girls title; Farmington was sixth, North Farmington eighth and Harrison ninth. The boys winner was Plymouth Canton; North finished eighth, Farmington ninth and Harrison 10th. See complete results on Page B2.

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER



Farmington tops North; Mercy in league playoff

Farmington senior Julie Kimmel hit a tie-breaking layup with 2:50 to play Thursday, and the Falcons posted a 46-41 win in girls basketball.

Kimmel, who had 11 points and 12 rebounds, broke a 36-36 tie after coach Scott Lowe called a timeout to stem a 12-0 North run.

Deanna Gauer followed Kimmel's score with a pair of shots from the foul-line area to pad Farmington's lead to six points as the Falcons held on to win.

Farmington improved its record to 4-5 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 8-6 overall.

North led a notch to 2-7 and 5-9. Rardin Brown led Farmington with 13 points and five assists.

BASKETBALL

while Jarin Atkins led her team with 18 rebounds and also added nine points. Gauer only had four points but contributed seven rebounds.

Christy Stockton paced the host Raiders with 15 points, and Brittany Pajewski had 11 points and six rebounds. Meghan Callahan added seven points and Jehan Hinds seven steals.

"The kids hung in there," Lowe said. "North's record is deceiving. They have a good press and we had trouble handling the ball."

"Give our kids credit. It wasn't

Please see BASKETBALL, B5

Hawks notch key win, remain on WLAA roll

By C.J. RISAK
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BASKETBALL

This game's outcome wasn't determined by shooting percentages, or rebounding, or even clutch free-throw shooting (although there was some of that).

A far more basic element of the game proved decisive: holding onto the ball. Plymouth Canton wasn't able to master that component in its game Tuesday at Farmington Harrison, particularly in the second half when faced with the Hawks' high-pressure defense, and that led to Harrison's 48-44 victory.

Harrison improved to 8-7 overall, 8-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. Canton is 9-6 overall, 5-4 in the WLAA.

"We just got a great effort by everyone on our team," said Harrison coach Pete Mantyla. "Canton did too."

The quicker Hawks' effort showed best on defense. They built a four-point lead by halftime, with senior guard Ayana Richmond doing most of the construction. Her three-point play to end the first quarter gave Harrison a 13-12 lead; in the second quarter, the Hawks limited Canton to two free throws over the final 2:40, allowing them to take a 22-18 lead into the break.

The constant pressure really

Please see HAWKS, B5

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