

# Wild comeback lifts Lakers to 61-58 OT win

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Cedar Point's got nothing on the performance turned in Friday night by the West Bloomfield and Birmingham Groves football teams.

In what might have been the wildest rollercoaster football game ever played at West Bloomfield High School, the Lakers survived the thrilling ride, nipping Birmingham Groves 61-58 in overtime.

But the most astounding fact was West Bloomfield relied on a defensive gem to clinch an Oakland Activities Association Division II game that — according to the Michigan High School Athletic Association record book — featured the second-most total points scored by two teams in history. The teams also combined for 1,066 offen-

sive yards.

On top of all that, the Lakers fought back from a 45-14 half-time deficit (and needed a pair of two-point conversions) to take a late 58-51 lead when senior quarterback Josh Adams scored an electrifying 32-yard touchdown run with 1:33 left. But they then watched Groves tie the game with no time left on the fourth quarter scoreboard — when junior quarterback Ryan Macke connected on a 20-yard touchdown pass to senior Steve Jacobites, and Alex Edelson made his seventh extra point of the unfathomable contest.

In OT, the Lakers (2-1) were first to get the ball at the 10-yard-line, but could not punch it into the end zone. Junior Alan Cechanowicz calmly booted a field goal, however, to give the Lakers the three-point

cushion.

Groves (1-2) had one last chance. On third down at the 2-yard-line, a holding penalty pushed the Falcons back. And then senior Laker defensive back Zach Hillers interpreted Macke's attempt to win the game and nipped down the field, holding the ball with one hand and pumping his other hand into the air.

"With our team, we don't care how we do it as long as we do it," said West Bloomfield head coach Dominic Shrewsbury, accepting congratulations as if the Lakers won a championship game.

Shrewsbury said he and the other coaches didn't say much to the team during intermission, after Groves racked up 360 offensive yards and a 31-point advantage. The Falcons were just four points shy of

having enough of a lead to invoke a running clock.

"We didn't say much to our kids," Shrewsbury continued. "They were ticked off at each other in the locker room. At the start of the second half, that was the most fired up we've been."

According to Falcons' head coach Brendan Flaherty, the football game turned into a basketball game.

"I don't think we did a good job stopping them and to be honest with you, I don't think they did a good job stopping us," Flaherty said. "It was going to come down to whoever had the ball last."

"I've got to give them credit, though. They were down by 30 points at the half. But I'm proud of my guys. We'll bounce back from this thing."

second shutout of the season.

"We didn't play well tonight," Meteyer said, attributing that in part to a ban on practice Wednesday due to concerns surrounding the 9/11 anniversary and poor field conditions.

"We were a little bit flat. I tell the kids, 'If we can play poorly and still win the game, something is going right.' Not every game is going to be a pretty game or a well-fought game."

Each team had five shots on goal, but the Raiders had the better quality attempts, according to Meteyer.

"They only had one scoring opportunity, and that was more a defensive mixup by our players," he said.

"It was not a well-played game on our part. If we have games like that and still win, that's good."

"We just need to keep our focus and play one game at a time. It will be tough to play them the second time around. They've all been close games, and it's tough to play a good team twice and beat them. We still have a long season ahead of us."

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GOOD START

West Bloomfield seemed to be a different team when the third quarter began, with Jeremy Zaks recovering the Lakers' on-sides kick near mid-field. On fourth down and seven, Adams launched a high pass to senior back Matt Koenigskecht, who made a fingertip grab and raced all the way into the end zone for a 46-yard TD.

That play was one of several big ones turned in by Koenigskecht, who also rushed for 209 yards and returned a first-quarter kickoff 61 yards.

The tide kept turning in West Bloomfield's favor when Groves fumbled the ball right into the hands of sophomore Ben Welch. He scored from 33 yards out and the Lakers were back in business, trailing just 16-29 with 9:30 left in the third.

Led by senior linebacker Vince Berry (16 tackles, 7 assists), the Laker defense stiffened, closing the running lanes which had been previously exploited by Jacobites (129 yards), Glendon Watson (118 yards) and Danny Jacobs (122 yards).

But the Falcons did open up a 51-29 lead late in the third when Macke (8-12, 139) found Jacobites wide open for a 52-

yard touchdown pass. Jacobites led all receivers with 83 yards.

Undaunted, the Lakers kept fighting back. First, Koenigskecht scored a high-light-reel 57-yard TD, stiff-armed a Falcon defender in the 15 for good measure.

With eight minutes on the clock, an 18-yard run by Koenigskecht helped set up a three-yard TD run by senior Derrick Johnson (15-59).

Adams then hit Koenigskecht for a two-point conversion, slicing the score to 51-43.

After a Groves fumble, Johnson scored again, from the five, with 3:33 to play. Another two-point conversion by Koenigskecht knotted the score, 51-51.

The go-ahead TD run by Adams was set up by another Groves fumble, recovered by West Bloomfield's Johnson.

In the first half, the Falcons capitalized on several Laker miscues, including a blocked field goal that was returned 78 yards for a TD by senior Jarrett Smith to open up a 21-7 advantage.

Another Groves touchdown, a three-yarder by Watson in the second quarter, followed a fumble recovery.

West Bloomfield will visit Southfield-Lathrup at 7 p.m. Friday, while Groves will host Rochester Adams.

## TENNIS STARS

WEST BLOOMFIELD'S FARMINGTON HARRISON 3 Sept. 10 at West Bloomfield  
No. 1 Singles: Raja Mayer (WB) defeated Brett Gudimov (WB) 6-0, 6-2; No. 2 Laura Gynn (WB) def. Melissa Mason, 6-1, 6-1; No. 3 Michelle White (WB) def. Kara Hahn, 6-1, 6-2; No. 4 Mary Bresnahan (WB) def. Michelle Neff, 7-5, 6-3.  
No. 1 Doubles: Sarah Rogge-Ashley Vranly

(WB) def. Abbey O'Neil-Lindsey Branch, 6-4, 7-6; No. 2: Andrea Schneider-Michelle Lankowski (WB) def. Whitney Roman-Kristen Gynn, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2; No. 3: Becky Tremblin-Brett Gudimov (WB) def. Megan Saxe-Nicole Miller, 6-2, 6-1; No. 4: Kiki Papagiotopoulos-Alina Roby (WB) def. Stacy Polyrus-Liz Channan, 6-1, 6-1.  
Harrison record: 2-4.

## DUAL

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The 200 freestyle relay team of Leeb, Stephanie Wegner, "Vicky" Burrowski and Julie Walters also was second with a time of 2:05.78.

"I was pleased with the effort, even though we didn't have starting blocks," Bandy said. "The kids stepped up and did what they had to do to win the meet."

"A lot of younger kids were able to swim some events and pick up some points toward letters and, overall, the team swam very well," Bandy said. Additional first-year members of the team are freshman divers Karen Liebowitz and Megan McNeil and freshman swimmer Sarah LaBelle.

## RAIDERS SHIPWRECK LAKERS

North Farmington began its dual-meet swim season Thursday with a 115-70 victory over visiting West Bloomfield. Emily Howard, Valencia Smith and Lindsey Legacki led

the Raiders by winning two individual events apace and contributing to two relay victories each.

Legacki and Howard teamed with Angela Hanks and Kristen Wolff to make a state cut in the medley relay with a first-place effort of 1:56.93.

Howard, Smith and Legacki combined with Catherine Munaco to win the 400 freestyle relay (3:57.28).

Munaco anchored and Smith swam a leg of the winning 200 freestyle relay. The team included Katie Purcell and Jessica Sapick and posted a 1:49.91 time.

Smith had solo victories in the 200 and 100 freestyle events with respective times of 2:03.03 and 56.90.

Legacki won the 200 IM (2:19.54) and the 500 freestyle (5:04.76), and Howard touched first in the 50 freestyle (25.69) and the butterfly (1:07.10).

The Raiders had additional wins from Kristina Bendick in the backstroke (1:07.57) and Wolff in the breaststroke (1:12.93). The Lakers' Jamie Schonberg won the diving with 186.10 points.

"It was a pretty good first meet," North coach Pat Duthile said. "A lot of times were close to state cuts but not quite. We'll get there."

North had second places from Bendick in the 200 freestyle (2:11.62), Purcell in the IM (2:30.94), Rachel Expose in the butterfly (1:12.27) and Hanks in the backstroke (1:08.51).

The medley relay team of Beth Danielewicz, Lauren Givens, Lindsey Scher and Kristina Navas also finished second and posted a time of 2:05.66.

HARRISON 107, AYOVALLE 78  
Harrison first places: medley relay (Stieber, Jaki Waldecker, Stief, Nordhoff), 2:04.13; 200 freestyle: Leeb, 2:16.59; 200 IM: Stief, 2:20.94 (state cut); 50 freestyle: Jaki Waldecker, 27.55; butterfly: Stief, 1:04.30 (state cut); 100 freestyle: Jaki Waldecker, 1:00.22; 500 freestyle: Leeb, 5:12.13; backstroke: Stieber, 1:10.94; breaststroke: Jessie Waldecker, 1:18.13; 400 freestyle relay (Stief, Nordhoff, Jaki Waldecker, Stieber), 4:18.2.  
Harrison second places: backstroke, Nordhoff, 1:12.71; third places: 200 IM, Stieber, 2:35.72; 50 freestyle, Nordhoff, 29.12; 500 freestyle, Wagner, 6:50.9.

WEST BLOOMFIELD TOL, HARRISON 67  
Harrison first places: medley relay (Stieber, Jaki Waldecker, Stief, Jaki Waldecker), 2:05.31; 200 freestyle, Stief, 2:08.40; 200 IM, Jaki Waldecker, 2:26.89; butterfly, Stief, 1:03.74; 100 freestyle, Jaki Waldecker, 1:02.21; backstroke, Stieber, 1:08.04.  
Harrison second places: breaststroke, Jessie Waldecker, 1:18.06; 400 freestyle relay (Stief, Nordhoff, Leeb, Jaki Waldecker), 4:09.72; third places: 200 IM, Stieber, 2:37.02; 500 freestyle, Nordhoff, 6:07.03.

## FARMINGTON

FROM PAGE C1

came through for us and scored goals when we needed them. We kept possession a lot better than we have in recent games.

"Clarkston had a pretty fast team. They were about even with us, which surprised me. That was one of the things that made the game closer. They

put a lot of pressure on us and played physical soccer."

It was Farmington's first division game that didn't have a 2-1 outcome.

"We're going to score in just about every game, I think," Juncos said. "We haven't been shutout so far, but we have to shut out more teams than we have to this point."

"If we do that, we're going to win more games, because we have people who can put the

ball in the net. Our defense is playing quite well, but we still need to pick it up a little more."

## RAIDERS BLANK BARONS

North Farmington improved its unbeaten record to 4-0-1 Thursday by defeating host Bloomfield Hills Andover in an OAA Division II game, 2-0.

Scott Moscow scored the first goal nine minutes into the game off a throw-in by Mohammad Bachrouche.

"Jon Parker headed the ball off the back of his head to the far post, and Moscow got a body on it and walked it right into the goal," North coach Ron Meteyer said.

The Raiders seemed content with the one-goal lead and didn't play well after that, he added.

The score remained 1-0 until there was 7:27 left in the game when Greg Shumer scored the second goal.

Andrew Mouranie took the ball up the right side and crossed it to the middle. Shumer was charging hard toward the net and one-touched the ball into goal from five yards out.

Alex Lubyansky earned his

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