

Highlanders roll over Red Hawks, 46-0

BY JIM TOTH
STAFF WRITER

With precision! That's the best way to describe Rochester Adams' crushing of Oakland Activities Association Division I rival Troy Athens Friday night.

The Highlanders' well-oiled offensive machine, operated by senior quarterback Mike Jones, put four touchdowns on the scoreboard in the first half and a stifling, ball-hawking defense did the rest in a 46-0 rout of the Red Hawks.

"We're on a mission for a state championship and we're not going to stop," bellowed Adams senior lineman Matt Barsamian, who set the tone for the Highlanders' third consecutive victory with a sack of Athens QB Brian Rider on the game's first play from scrimmage. "Anything less than that is just unacceptable."

Anything less than a touchdown drive or a stop of the Red Hawks' offense was unusual over the first two quarters as the Highlanders racked up 289 yards in offense and a 26-0 advantage. Senior Mike LaPage accounted for two of those scores, rumbling in from 8 yards out in the first period and 79 yards out in the second quarter. Backfield-mate Karl Daniel added six points on a 12-yard scamper and Jones scooted around right end from 3 yards out.

"Our offense has so many weapons that teams can only choose to stop one of them," said Jones, who sat out all but the first two plays of the second half. "We can pass on you. We can run in the middle and we can take it outside on you. So it's pretty much choose your death."

"We're more balanced this year," Adams coach Jim DeJaeger said. "We can obviously run the ball very effec-

tively, inside and outside, and we can throw the ball very effectively, also. "This is not an emotional group," he went on. "They come to work, get the job done and go home. Sometimes you wonder are they ready? They are so low key."

With a running clock following LaPage's third-quarter scoring run that covered 16 yards, the Highlanders' defense held the Red Hawks (1-2, 1-1) to just 11 yards in the second half and 51 for the game.

"We just try to keep it on both sides of the ball," said Barsamian, who received stellar help on the defensive end from teammates Jon Farley, Sam Antonopoulos, Bryan Dulany, Alan Guy and Grant Kosch. "We try to go out and play our best on offense and play our best on defense."

Efforts like this one played before the enthusiastic Highland home fans can be traced back to the pre-season practices in which DeJaeger's troops mapped out their mission.

"The kids respond to your coaching and you respond to them," DeJaeger said. "The harder they work, the harder you want to work. We have a very good defense. (Assistant coach) Jeff Howell does a great job coaching them."

"Athens is a young team, so they're a little inexperienced and a little tentative," DeJaeger added. "They're rebuilding now and fortunately we got kids who want to work. We have guys, and if you got a lot of good seniors like we got, it helps."

The Highlanders, who will put their 3-0 ledger on the line Friday at non-league Birmingham Groves, churned up 405 yards on the ground, including a 66-yard third-quarter TD from junior Dan Johnson. LaPage's 168 yards on 10 carries led the way.

HARRISON

FROM PAGE C1

After stopping Troy on the opening possession of the second half, Harrison had an eight-play touchdown drive covering 37 yards.

Woods carried the ball on every play and Kollins added the PAT for a 16-0 score early in the third quarter.

The Hawks got the ball at the Colts' 48 midway in the fourth and needed five plays to score their second touchdown.

Woods, who has nearly 500 yards in three games and is averaging 6.4 yards per carry, capped the drive with a 22-yard run.

Harrison's defense played a solid game, holding Troy to just 14 yards rushing and 30 passing. The Colts were without their top two running backs, however. Fullback Ken Griffith and halfback Anthony Adams, both of whom also start at defensive end, were injured.

Aaron Harmon had 11 yards rushing on five carries to lead Troy, and quarterback Ryan Griffith was 3-of-10 passing.

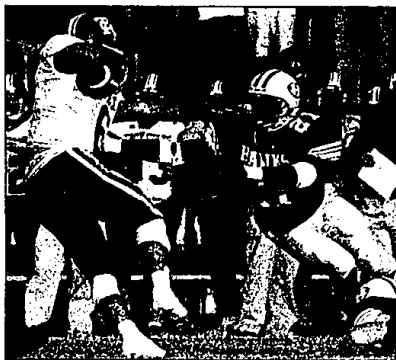
Harrison had 196 yards rushing, and Jake Ghannam completed seven of 14 passes for 85 yards. Woods caught three passes for 27 yards, Charles Pickett two for 31 and Kevin Zerbo two for 27.

Zerbo led the Harrison defense with seven tackles from his inside linebacker position. Nate Struble and Brandon Willer had six tackles apiece and Pickett five. Troy had two penalties for 20 yards.

N. FARMINGTON 47, STONEY CREEK 0: North Farmington cruised to a 34-0 halftime lead and went on to register its second straight victory after a season-opening loss to Bloomfield Hills Andover.

The Raiders were led by quarterback Bryan Smith, who ran for a pair of touchdowns (4 and 25 yards) and tossed a 1-yard scoring pass to Will Halway.

Ken by scored on a pair of long touchdowns run (87 and 60 yards), and Marcus Thornton went over from 5 yards out for another score.



ELIZABETH CARMICHAEL/OBSERVER

Harrison senior defensive end James Cook attempts to tackle Troy quarterback Ryan Griffith. The Hawks won the OAA Division I contest, 22-0.

North Farmington also scored a defensive touchdown on a 35-yard, second-quarter interception return by Marcus Thornton.

The Raiders are 1-0 in the OAA Division III.

CLARENCEVILLE 48, LUTHERAN NW 0: Livonia Clarenceville's defense put up a brick wall Friday night as the Trojans held Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest to 29 total yards in a 48-0 Metro Conference football victory.

The Trojans are now 3-0 overall and 3-0 in the Metro Conference. Northwest is 0-3 and 0-3.

"The defense played pretty well," Clarenceville coach Greg Hudkins said. "We got pretty aggressive. We went after them."

Defensive standouts for the Trojans included Allen Garrant, who had eight tackles and one sack; Andrew Shaw, eight tackles, including one for loss; Justin Robbins, two sacks; and Frank Pointer, two tackles for loss.

Offensively, Clarenceville had 254 total yards. The Trojans rushed 26 times for 142 yards led by junior Jeff Florell, who finished with 60 yards on 10 carries.

Quarterback Josh Silvernail hit seven of nine passes for 112 yards and three touchdowns. Glenn Garrant was the recipient of two Silvernail 10 passes, 2 and 25 yards, while Matt Sawyer caught a 12-yard TD pass. Tight end Ryan Biersbach had three catches for 60 yards.

Saylor also rushed for a pair of TDs (25 and 6 yards). Pointer, the junior tackle who lines up on

short down situations in the backfield, added a 6-yard TD run.

Florell and sophomore Ryan Bame each picked off passes for Clarenceville, which led 20-0 at halftime.

COUNTRY DAY 35, HOLY NAMES 4: Detroit Country Day entertained Windsor Holy Names Friday evening and registered an easy 35-4 triumph.

The Yellow Jackets, coming off a big opening-week victory over Orchard Lake St. Mary's, soared to a 27-0 halftime lead and were never threatened. CDD made it 35-0 before the Canadians scored late in the fourth quarter.

"I was a little worried about a letdown. We were coming off that big win, plus we didn't know a lot about Holy Names. We heard they had some good players," said CDD coach Dan MacLean. "We just overmatched them in the long run."

Quarterback Ernie Jackson ran a bootleg in from 19 yards out to open the scoring and later tossed a 25-yard scoring pass to Adrian Martin. Phil Danaska scored twice (16 and 2 yards) and Corliss Seaman scored on a 10-yard run.

Jackson completed six passes for 100 yards and Danaska carried 10 times for 112 yards. Country Day finished with 365 total yards.

Defensively, Brian Young, C.J. Karchon and Martin had interceptions.

CDD next plays 2 p.m. Saturday at Windsor Stadium against Port Huron Central.

FALCONS

FROM PAGE C1

these people, and I told (offensive coordinator Joe) Pesci we were going to be OK after they scored," Bechtel said.

"They kicked it to Champion and we executed it perfectly. He took three steps and it opened up. It looked like the punting of the Red Sea, and it was gorgeous."

The Falcons capitalized on an interception by Ryan Brodowsky and a short punt by the Knights to take a 13-7 half-time lead.

After getting the ball at the Oak Park 42 and later the 25, Farmington settled for field goals of 29 and 42 yards by Lopata in the second quarter. "Once we had the lead, the kicking game was fabulous; the special teams were superb, and our ability to defend, until late in the game, was superb," Bechtel said.

"The kids hung in. We started get tired (late in the game). But we found ways to make plays, and I can't tell you how proud I am of them."

The Falcons made three big stops on fourth down in the second half to put a halt to Oak Park offensive drives and preserve their lead.

Farmington forced an incomplete pass on fourth-and-3 at their 31 early in the third quarter.

The Knights faced fourth-and-3 again early in the fourth at the Falcons' 14, but the defense stopped DeShawn Thornton just short of the first down.

It was fourth-and-4 for Oak Park midway in the last quarter at the Farmington 15. Perryman completed a pass, but the receiver was knocked out of bounds shy of the mark.

"We can play defense," Bechtel said. "That's a big, strong, athletic (Oak Park) team. We gave up 71 yards in two games. I don't care who you're playing; that's pretty good."

The Knights, who had almost double the number of yards the Falcons had (244-124), started to pick up bigger

chunks of yardage in the second half.

While the Farmington defense bent, it didn't break. The Falcons didn't give up the big play and managed to contain Oak Park's speed.

"It wasn't their outside speed that concerned us," Bechtel said. "It was their ability to cut back that concerned us."

"That's what started to happen in the fourth quarter. We started to overpursue. But we had great efforts by kids making plays down field."

Oak Park had 128 yards on the ground, and all but 18 came in the second half.

Thornton rushed for 71 yards on 10 carries and Brian Stephens 48 on 11.

Perryman was 6-of-16 pass-

ing for 116 yards, and Anthony Madkin's only pass attempted was picked off by Ben Bersche late in the game.

That was another key stop, and the Falcons ran out the clock after drawing the Knights offside on fourth-and-4 at midfield with 1:12 remaining.

All of Farmington's yardage came on the ground, and most

of it was gained by tailback Danny Preston, who rushed for 106 yards on 25 carries.

"I'm not disappointed in our offense," Bechtel said, adding the Falcons didn't have time to throw because of a hard rush from the corners.

"We need to execute a little better in the passing game, but we had to be careful (in the second half). I put the con-

straints on coach Pesci.

"We wanted a defensive game. In the middle of the third quarter, we were looking not to make a mistake, and that was kinda obvious."

"We wanted to take advantage of our punter, and Jeff Fischer did in great, great job for us tonight."

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