

# Clarenceville gridders suffer 1st defeat to unbeaten Trinity

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

With only one non-conference game on its schedule this season, Livonia Clarenceville was seeking a quality opponent. The Trojans got a little more than they bargained for Saturday at East Detroit Memorial Field as the top-ranked team in Division 8, Harper Woods Holy Trinity Catholic, came away with a 20-7 victory.

Holy Trinity, formerly Bishop Gallagher and featuring nine transfers, kept its perfect record intact at 5-0.

Trinity scored on three long plays to hand Clarenceville its first regular season defeat under fourth-year coach Cong Hudkins, who is 38-4 overall.

The loss leaves the Trojans at 4-1 overall heading into Saturday's Metro Conference clash with host Lutheran Westland.

Six turnovers — three fumbles lost and three interceptions — also proved to be Clarenceville's undoing.

It was a step up in competition and it took a while for us to get used to it," said Hudkins, whose team trailed 14-0 at half-time. "We're not a big-play team this year. I think what we learned today that if we keep making mistakes and if we don't get them corrected, it can happen again."

Lancers' transfer quarterback Mark Zera, who threw for over 2,000 yards last year as a starter for the University of Detroit-Jesuit, hit Tim Becker with a 51-yard TD pass with 7:14 left in the second quarter to give Trinity a 6-0 lead. (The extra point was blocked.)

But the back-breaker came late in the first half when sophomore running back Justin Samuels, broke a third-down fumble for 64 yards and a score. Zera then ran in for the two-point with 2:50 left to give the Lancers a 14-0 lead.

The TD came after Clarenceville elected to go for a first down on fourth-and-6 play at the Trinity 41. But junior tailback Jeff Fioretti, who finished with 118 yards in 29 carries, was thrown for a 4-yard loss.

"We tried to steal some momentum there trying to go into the half," Hudkins said. "Looking back, we should have punted. But as they say, 'hindsight is 20-20.'"

Clarenceville's first half was punctuated by missed offensive opportunities. The Trojans got stopped twice inside the 20 and made two turnovers.

Trinity tried to blow the game open in the third quarter, taking its first possession and moving down to the Clarenceville 30 before Glenn Garratt made his second interception of the game off Zera.

The 6-6 Garratt made a certain things in certain situations between the hashmarks. What worked in the first half, didn't work for us in the second half.

The Trojans then took the ball all the way down to the Lancers' 9, only to turn it over with a fumble on the first play of the final quarter.

But Aaron Allison scooped up a Trinity fumble on the next play to set up Jeff Fioretti's 3-yard TD run with 10:54 remaining. Bruno Shkrelli's extra point cut the deficit to 14-7.

The Trojans defense held again, but another fumble cost the Trojans dearly at their own 39.

Samuels then put the game away with a 40-yard run around a tackle, scoring a TD with just 1:13 to play.

"Clarenceville is a heckuva football team and they gave us everything we could handle," said Trinity assistant Jack Masseran. "We knew we'd be in for battle. We tried to do certain things in certain situations between the hashmarks. What worked in the first half, didn't work for us in the second half."

"But we were opportunistic in the first half where we came up with some big plays." Masseran was filling in for longtime head coach George Sabadi, who was undergoing triple bypass heart surgery on Saturday.

"I thought the kids took the news well and they responded along with our coaches," he said.

Trinity outgained Clarenceville in total yardage, 356-199. The Lancers had 13 first downs to the Trojans' seven.

Samuels, a rock-solid 5-foot-11, 160-pound 10th-grader, finished with 169 yards in 21 carries. Zera completed nine of 20 passes for 141 yards.

Shkrelli added 66 yards on the ground in eight carries, but the Trojans had only 23 yards passing (2-of-16) as quarterback Josh Silkenrath was under constant pressure.

"They (Trinity) had a good scheme, bump-and-run our receivers and send the house," Hudkins said. "We had some plays open, we just have to keep working on the timing."

Not only were the Trojans missing third-year starting quarterback Pete Shaw, who has yet to take a snap this season because of a broken collarbone suffered in a preseason scrimmage, they also lost starting center Sean Duba to a hair-line fracture of the fibula earlier in the week in practice.

"That puts us down two more positions, but we'll just have to make adjustments," Hudkins said. "We've been pretty healthy since I've been here. We're facing some adversity now, but hopefully we can overcome it."

"We learned today that if we don't play sound, then mistakes will get us. But I'm proud of the way the kids fought. They played hard. The defense was aggressive. We just can't give up some of those big plays."

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## Country Day no match for mighty CC rushers

Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day was supposed to provide one of Redford-Detroit Catholic Central's toughest tests of this football season.

Instead, the Shamrocks rolled up 415 yards in total offense and scored in every quarter as top-ranked (Division 1) CC dropped the host Yellow Jackets, 45-14, on Saturday.

The Shamrocks racked up 321 yards rushing on the game as they improved to 5-0.

Junior tailback Derrick Brooks led the way with 162 yards on 20 carries and a touchdown, while sophomore fullback Eric Vojtkofsky had three touchdowns among his 71 yards on 13 carries.

Brooks put the Shamrocks (5-0) in the lead for good on their second possession with a 56-yard scoring run and Jason Gingell added one of his many extra points on the afternoon.

CC made it 14-0 on the first play of the second quarter with quarterback Dave Thomas hitting Kevin McKee on a 5-yard TD pass, then 17-0 on a 37-yard field goal by Gingell.

Country Day (3-1) chipped into that lead late in the half as quarterback Earnest Jackson hit Adrian Martin on a pass.

Martin tried to score, but fumbled into the end zone, where it was recovered by Phil Damaska for the score. Paul Fabre added the two-point conversion, cutting the lead to 17-8.

CC rolled in the third quarter, adding a pair of touchdowns — an 11-yard run by

**FOOTBALL**

Vojtkofsky and a 17-yard pass from Thomas to Sean Shusterman — for a 31-8 lead.

Martin and Jackson trimmed that late in the period with a 17-yard scoring pass.

But Vojtkofsky added TDs of 6 and 1 yards in the fourth quarter to seal the win.

Thomas was 6-for-13 passing for 94 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions, while Jackson was 5-for-19 passing for Country Day for 136 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions.

Randall Means had a pair of interceptions for CC's defense.

Dan Moore made seven tackles and McKee and Brian Hanley had six each.

**BROTHER RICE 28, DELASALLE 12:** Birmingham Brother Rice quarterback Doug Pickens tossed three touchdown passes Saturday to propel the Warriors to a Catholic League triumph over Warren Delasalle.

Coach Al Fracassa's club improved to 4-1 overall.

Leading by a 7-0 count after one quarter on a 4-yard fumble return for a touchdown by Jeff Magnatta, Pickens sent his teammates into the lead for good with a 52-yard hook-up in the second period with Jeff Stochowick.

A 31-yard completion with Brian Walter in the third quarter increased the Rice advantage to 21-0 heading into the final 12 minutes. The Warriors iced the victory with a 25-yard scoring loss from Pickens to Anthony Jackson.

Delasalle's points came courtesy of scoring runs from Michael Poley (11 yards) and Joseph Hawk (23 yards).

Pickens finished 8-of-15 for 163 yards passing on the day, while Jackson led the ground game with 55 yards on 13 attempts.

The Warriors will look for further success Saturday in a 7 p.m. clash at Keyworth Stadium with U.O. Jesuit.

## Groves wins Division II county tourney

**BOYS GOLF**

After a slow start to the season, the Birmingham Groves boys golf team is finally playing up to par. The Falcons punctuated that improvement with an impressive performance Monday at the Oakland County Division II Boys Golf Championship played at the Pontiac Municipal Golf Club.

All four Falcon golfers earned medals as Groves shot an excellent 293 to claim the championship of the 26-team tournament.

Bloomfield Hills Andover was a distant second at 305, followed by Lakeland (307), North Farmington (309) and Rochester Hills Stoney Creek

311).

It was Groves' first Division II county golf championship, although the Falcons have finished third on four different occasions.

By placing among the top two teams, the Falcons will move up to the Division I Oakland County tournament next season.

**MOVING ON UP**

"That's a heck-uva score. That 293 would have been almost anywhere," said Crosby.

"But we had some in-

dividual. We really wanted to get back into the Division I tournament, and the way we played today, we could have won (the Division I) tournament."

"This was a huge win for us," he said.

Senior Pete Rosenberg led the Falcon medalists with an even-par round of 70.

Senior Dan Gordon was a few strokes back at 73, while the Booth brothers — senior Brandon and freshman Brett — each carded a 75.

Mike Morton's 77 did not count in the final team score.

"We knew we were going to be a good team this year and we wanted to show it (at the County meet)," said Crosby, whose team is 7-2 overall and 4-1 in OAA

Division II action.

"The last two weeks we've been playing very well, very consistent. Today we just put it all together. Pete has really improved since last year and Brett's really come on as a freshman. All five of our golfers have improved tremendously."

"We have a great group of kids and it's been a fun season for us," Crosby said.

Andover's Tommy Abraham tied for match medalist honors with Oakland Christian's Clint Johnson as each shot a one-under 69.

Stoney Creek's top two golfers — Dan Doyle and Greg Beckett — finished tied for fifth with identical rounds of 72.

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