

Trojans overcome Eagles, 28-6; head coach sidelined

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
SPECIAL WRITER

Things may be different at Livonia Clarenceville this season, but the results have a certain sameness.

Clarenceville, minus head coach Greg Hudkins, flitted with disaster for nearly half a game Friday night before overpowering Harper Woods Lutheran East, 28-6, in a Metro Conference football game.

The Trojans (6-0, 6-1) were under the guidance of assistant coaches Todd Pennycook and Corey McKendry while Hudkins was serving a mandatory one-game suspension under Michigan High School Athletic Association rules after being ejected in last week's 13-0 win over Lutheran High Westland.

"We had some adversity this week," said Pennycook, the defensive coordinator. "We had to overcome it and the kids

C'VILLE FOOTBALL

overcame it.

"It was a great example of what a great head coach we have. He was able to prepare the staff and he was able to prepare the kids. The team did a great job."

How does a coach prepare a team when he coach isn't going to be there for the game? Does he skip the week entirely, to get his team used to his absence? Or does he make it business as usual - knowing that it won't be Friday night as usual because he won't be there.

Hudkins chose to be hands-on during the week and absent for the game.

The Trojans took the opening kickoff and marched 76 yards for a touchdown, with 264-pound junior defensive tackle Frank Pointer playing fullback and bullying the final 7-yards for

the score. The extra point try failed.

Jeff Fioretti ran a yard to score the next time.

Clarenceville had the ball and it was 13-0 with 1:45 left in the quarter.

After that, however, Lutheran East (3-3, 4-3) held Clarenceville in check until the sixth play of the fourth quarter. The Eagles got some energy when the Trojans fumbled a punt and East recovered on the Clarenceville 45.

Quarterback Brandon Lostutter threw a 24-yard pass to receiver Adam Crawford to get the ball to the 20 and finished the drive two plays later with a 14-yard TD toss to Crawford.

But while the Trojans spent much of two quarters just one play from disaster, the Eagles weren't able to come up with that one play.

"They flat-out handled us just

said. "They handled us in the middle and that left it wide open on the ends."

Justified credited defensive tackles Pointer and sophomore Russell Spencer for stuffing anything the Eagles tried in the middle.

"Those two kids inside really handled us," he said. "So they were able to send everybody and his mom off the edge."

"We couldn't run and so we had to throw. That's not a formula for success."

Lutheran East was limited to minus-31 yards rushing and 86 yards passing on 10-for-23.

Clarenceville could get quarterback Pete Shaw, who suffered a broken collarbone in a preseason scrimmage, back in a week or two and it's been missing receiver/defender Glenn Gurnatt for a few weeks as well as its first string center Sean Duba.

Next week, three squad will get Hudkins back, as well.

Much at stake in final weeks of grid season

The countdown is in the final stages toward the end of another prep football regular season.

Friday night marks the next to the last week-end of the 2002 campaign for area squads. For some the stakes couldn't be higher. For others, any shine

would be a welcomed site.

Once again Oakland Activities Association Division I play is the featured attraction with the marquee matchup pitting unbeaten and No. 1-ranked Rochester Adams visiting once-beaten and revenge-seeking Lake Orion.

A victory by the Highlanders would all but assure them the OAA Division I crown, a perfect regular season slate and home field throughout the state playoffs.

A victory by the Dragons will have Adams, Lake Orion and Farmington Harrison sharing league supremacy.

In all, 18 games featuring area teams are slated for Friday and Saturday, containing a varying degree of importance.

(Last week's picks: 12 right, 6 wrong; season mark: 29 right, 36 wrong.)

Farmington at Highland Park (4 p.m. Friday): The Falcons venture outside the OAA to do battle with one of the Mega Conference's better teams. The Polar Bears have been able to put points on the scoreboard and that proves to be the difference.

PICK HIGHLAND PARK: Rochester Adams at Lake Orion (7 p.m. Friday): Don't be fooled by last week when the Dragons lost to Harrison, the same Harrison team that fell to the Highlanders a week earlier. So much is on the line for both teams - league title, home field for the playoffs, revenge - that this promises to be a classic. All of that adds up for the Dragons as last week's disappointment turns into this week's heroics.

PICK LAKE ORION: R.O. Kimball at Blm. Groves (7 p.m. Friday): Another game with a lot on the line sees the Falcons looking to maintain a share of the OAA Division I lead. The duo of Steve Jacobies and Jordan Watson rushed their teammates past the Blue Jays last week and will do the same to the Knights this week.

PICK GROVES: Troy at Rochester (7 p.m. Friday): These two teams have certainly had their troubles on and off the field and a victory here might take a little of the pain away. The Falcons find themselves short-handed following the recent off-the-field incident and that's all the Colts need to get back on the winning track.

PICK TROY: Blm. Seabolt at Water. Kettering (7 p.m. Friday): With the season-ending showdown against rival Groves looming next week, the Maples can tune up by having their way with the witless Captains.

PICK SEABOLT: Clarkson at Farmington Harrison (7 p.m. Friday): This should be a fun game to watch with Hawks QB Jake Gnanam squaring off against Wolves signal-caller Sam Palace. Both have been instrumental in their team's wins and another sterling performance will go a long way to wrapping up a berth in the post-season.

PICK HARRISON: B.H. Lahser at R.O. Dondoro (7 p.m. Friday): A perfect season is just two wins away and the Knights appear ready to move one step closer by hammering the Oaks.

PICK LAHSER: Southfield at West Bloomfield (7 p.m. Friday): It's been a season of struggles for these OAA Division II rivals. The Blue Jays fell on hard times right from the opening whistle and every time the Lakers seemed to take a step forward they stumbled backwards. Both teams will look to move the ball on the ground, and with Maurice Alexander in the backfield, the Blue Jays are able to achieve just that.

PICK SOUTHFIELD: Pontiac Central at North Farmington (7 p.m. Friday): The Raiders clinched a playoff spot with a win last week and now set their sights on staying in the OAA Division III title hunt.

PICK NORTH FARMINGTON: Pontiac Northern at Southfield-Lathrup (7 p.m. Friday): Lathrup QB Stephen Thompson will have to be at his very best to avoid the oncoming rush of the Huskies front line.

PICK NORTH: Waterford Mott at Troy Athens (7:30 p.m. Friday): Offensively, the Red Hawks have had some problems. They'll need to iron out those troubles if they want to trip up the Corsairs.

PICK MOTT: M.H. Lamphere at A.H. Avondale (7 p.m. Friday): The Yellow Jackets complete a sweep of their Madison Heights opponents by slinging the Rams.

PICK AVONDALE: Stoney Creek at Oak Park (7 p.m. Friday): The Knights welcome the Cougars and welcome victory.

PICK OAK PARK: Hazel Park at B.H. Andover (7:30 p.m. Friday): What seemed like a walk into the playoffs for the Barons a couple of weeks ago may not happen without a victory here over the Vikings. Coach Scott Supps' squad gets it done.

PICK ANDOVER: Fenton at Oxford (7:30 p.m. Friday): The Wildcats need two wins in two games. No foul ups here as the Cats close the Tigers.

PICK OXFORD: B.H. Cranbrook at Lutheran Northwest (7 p.m. Saturday): The Cones suffered a devastating setback to their league title hopes with last week's loss despite a record-setting passing performance from QB Ryan Karolick. Karolick won't have to depend on the throwing arm to get past the overmatched Crusaders.

PICK CRANBROOK: U-D Jesuit at Detroit Country Day (4 p.m. Saturday): It's must-win time for the Yellow Jackets in their bid to make it into the playoffs.

PICK U-D JESUIT: O.L. St. Mary's vs. Brother Rice at Groves (7 p.m. Saturday): One can only wonder which Eagles team will show up. It's a given which Warriors squad will be present.

PICK BROTHER RICE.

O & E STAFF'S FOOTBALL PICKS

WEEK 8	Jim Toth	Marty Budner	Tim Smith	Dan Stickrad	Ken Abramczyk	Dan O'Meara
FRIDAY						
Farmington at Highland Park	Highland Park	Farmington	Farmington	Farmington	Farmington	Farmington
Rochester Adams at Lake Orion	Lake Orion	Adams	Lake Orion	Lake Orion	Adams	Lake Orion
R.O. Kimball at Birmingham Groves	Groves	Groves	Groves	Kimball	Groves	Groves
Troy at Rochester	Troy	Troy	Troy	Troy	Troy	Troy
Birm. Seabolt at W. Kettering	Seabolt	Seabolt	Seabolt	Seabolt	Seabolt	Seabolt
Clarkston at Farmington Harrison	Harrison	Harrison	Harrison	Harrison	Harrison	Harrison
B.H. Lahser at Royal Oak Dondoro	Lahser	Lahser	Lahser	Lahser	Lahser	Lahser
Southfield at W. Bloomfield	Southfield	W. Bloomfield	W. Bloomfield	W. Bloomfield	W. Bloomfield	W. Bloomfield
Pontiac Central at N. Farmington	N. Farmington	N. Farmington	N. Farmington	N. Farmington	N. Farmington	N. Farmington
Pontiac Northern at South. Lathrup	Northern	Northern	Lathrup	Northern	Northern	Northern
Waterford Mott at Troy Athens	Mott	Athens	Athens	Mott	Athens	Mott
M.H. Lamphere at A.H. Avondale	Avondale	Avondale	Avondale	Avondale	Avondale	Avondale
Stoney Creek at Oak Park	Oak Park	Oak Park	Oak Park	Oak Park	Oak Park	Oak Park
Hazel Park at B.H. Andover	Andover	Andover	Andover	Andover	Andover	Andover
Fenton at Oxford	Oxford	Oxford	Oxford	Oxford	Oxford	Oxford
SATURDAY						
Cranbrook K. at R.H. Lutheran NW	Cranbrook	Cranbrook	Cranbrook	Cranbrook	Cranbrook	Cranbrook
U-D Jesuit at Detroit Country Day	U-D Jesuit	U-D Jesuit	Country Day	Country Day	U-D Jesuit	U-D Jesuit
O.L. St. Mary's vs. Birm. Brother Rice	Brother Rice	Brother Rice	Brother Rice	Brother Rice	Brother Rice	Brother Rice
LAST WEEK	12-6 (.667)	11-7 (.611)	10-8 (.556)	10-8 (.556)	10-8 (.556)	11-7 (.611)
SEASON TOTAL	89-36 (.712)	91-34 (.728)	82-43 (.656)	83-42 (.664)	90-35 (.720)	90-35 (.720)

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