

Area grid teams ready to take next step

The unpredictable world of playoff football was just that last weekend.

Five area teams, two of which were favored, suffered an early exit from the MHSAA's "Second Season" and must now take on the role of spectators as the post-season runs into district final weekend.

The biggest surprise was the ouster of Rochester Adams by Warren De La Salle, and Oxford's sec-

ond straight defeat at the hands of Lapeer East also came as a surprise.

Thus, seven local teams remain in playoff competition, highlighted by Saturday's neighborhood battle between twice-beaten Birmingham Seaholm and unbeaten Bloomfield Hills Lahser. (Last week's picks: 8 right, 2 wrong. Season's mark: 123 right, 46 wrong.)

Novi (7-3) at Lake Orion (9-1) 7 p.m. Friday: Nobody said any run through the playoffs is easy. The Dragons found that out first-hand last week by staving off Walled Lake Central in overtime. Another still test will be delivered by the Wildcats, but Hale Reckamp, Joel Winkler and Roger Allison helped their teammates dodge a bullet and are ready to hand out a real punishment.

PICK: LAKE ORION
Detroit Central (8-2) at Farmington (7-3)

O & E STAFF'S FOOTBALL PICKS

WEEK 11	Jim Toth	Marty Budner	Tim Smith	Dan Stickrad	Ken Abramczyk	Dan O'Meara
FRIDAY						
Novi at Lake Orion	Lake Orion	Lake Orion	Lake Orion	Lake Orion	Lake Orion	Lake Orion
Detroit Central at Farmington	Central	Farmington	Central	Central	Central	Farmington
SATURDAY						
Birmingham at F.H. Harrison	Harrison	Harrison	Brother Rice	Harrison	Harrison	Harrison
Birmingham at B.H. Lahser	Seaholm	Seaholm	Seaholm	Lahser	Lahser	Seaholm
M. Lutheran N. at D. Country Day	Country Day	Country Day	Country Day	Country Day	Country Day	Country Day
LAST WEEK	8-2 (.800)	9-1 (.900)	8-2 (.800)	8-2 (.800)	7-3 (.700)	9-1 (.900)
SEASON TOTAL	123-46 (.728)	126-43 (.746)	115-54 (.680)	118-51 (.698)	123-46 (.728)	127-42 (.751)

p.m. Friday from 9-9 last year to 9-1 this year. What a turnaround it has been for the Falcons. Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end, and that means this week's clash with the Iron Bears will look for their balanced attack, led by tailback Pierre Walker, to cause headaches for Falcon defenders, while an ever-improving defense looks to slow Matt Corrigan.

PICK: Central
Macomb Lutheran North (7-3) at Detroit Country Day (5-4), noon Saturday: The regular season ended in the way the post-

season began for the Yellow Jackets. Saturday's down to the wire contest produced a one-point victory over Detroit Crockett and now the Yellow Jackets face a Mustangs squad enthusiastic over its recent win. Still, the Jackets, man-to-man, have the edge in talent and ultimately will on the scoreboard, too.

PICK: COUNTRY DAY
Birmingham Brother Rice at (8-2) at Farmington Harrison (8-2), 1 p.m. Saturday: The sequel of the season-opening clash between these two mega programs could be

viewed as the state final in Division II. The Warriors scored a decisive win over the Hawks back in August inside the tranquil Silverdome. The surrounding and climate, however, won't be as favorable to the Warriors this time around. Marcus Woods and Jake Channan get the edge over Anthony Jackson and Doug Pickens.

PICK: HARRISON
Birmingham Seaholm (8-2) at Bloomfield Hills Lahser (10-0), 7 p.m. Saturday: All the Seaholm boys get out and applaud the effort their Knights have given them. It has

been historic, beginning with Berkley and continuing through rival Andover. But the twice-beaten Maples pose the toughest challenge of the season, starting with 18 senior players. Look for Seaholm senior TE Evan Trehan to sneak into the mix and help the Maples win a close one.

PICK: SEAHOLM
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GRID SCORES

FARMINGTON (9-1)
Farmington 51, Madison Heights 6.
Farmington 3, Clawson 0.
Farmington 13, Oak Park 7.
Farmington 49, Berkley 7.
Farmington 41, Ferndale 13.
Farmington 31, Pontiac Central 12.
Farmington 49, Stony Creek 0.
Farmington 14, Highland Park 0.
Farmington 7, Farmington 0.
Farmington 21, Henry Ford 14.
Farmington 272, opponents 66.

DETROIT CENTRAL (8-2)
Detroit Central 24, Wyandotte 7.
Detroit Central 30, Crockett 16.
Detroit Central 33, Southeastern 7.
Detroit Central 48, Southwestern 0.
Detroit Central 42, Western 6.
Detroit Central 48, Renaissance 0.
Detroit Central 23, Redford 6.
Detroit Central 20, Detroit Central 0.
Detroit Central 40, Detroit Central 0.
Detroit Central 30, MacKenzie 16.
Detroit Central 278, opponents 101.

FARMINGTON HARRISON (8-2)
Brother Rice 34, Harrison 20.
Harrison 21, Rochester 14.
Harrison 22, Troy 0.
Harrison 29, Waterford Walt 7.
Harrison 47, Troy Athens 6.
Rochester Adams 28, Harrison 21.
Harrison 28, Lake Orion 21, 207.
Harrison 43, Clarkston 24.
Harrison 61, West Bloomfield 20.
Harrison 24, Pontiac Northern 0.
Harrison 316, opponents 154.

BIRMINGHAM BROTHER RICE (8-2)
Brother Rice 34, Harrison 20.
Brother Rice 35, Oxford 28.
Brother Rice 35, Bishop Foley 27.
Catholic Central 21, Brother Rice 14.
Brother Rice 28, DeLaSalle 12.
Brother Rice 17, Uni. Detroit-Jesuit 14.
Brother Rice 21, Detroit Country Day 13.
Brother Rice 28, O.L. St. Mary's 21.
Muskegon 45, Brother Rice 21.
Brother Rice 42, North Farmington 17.
Brother Rice 275, opponents 218.

CC's 4th-quarter avalanche crushes Stevenson

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

For three quarters Livonia Stevenson's football team had a finger plugging the dike.

But when the fourth quarter rolled around, the Spartans couldn't withstand the surging pressure applied by Redford Catholic Central, which exploded 21 straight points en route to a 35-7 Division 1 playoff victory Saturday afternoon at Redford Union's Kraft Field.

Defending Division 1 state champion CC, now 9-1 overall, will face Plymouth Canton, also 9-1, for the District 2 champi-

onship in Region 3, also at 1 p.m. Saturday at Kraft.

Stevenson bows out at 7-3 overall.

Shamrocks junior quarterback David Thomas scored on a 28-yard touchdown run with 11:15 to go in the final quarter. Redford's Mearns added a 7-yard TD run with 5:09 remaining to put the game away — giving CC a 28-7 advantage after leading by only seven.

Kevin McKee followed by picking off a Stevenson pass and nailing 15 yards into the end zone to complete the fourth-quarter surge.

Thomas was efficient

throughout the game, hitting seven of nine passes for 63 yards.

But he was just as effective as a runner, carrying eight times for 56 yards.

"We've told David (Thomas) all season that when he's got the run, he's got to take it, and he did it today really well," said CC coach Tom Mach.

"He took what the defense gave him and he made some good decisions."

Junior tailback Derek Brooks was CC's leading rusher with 129 yards in 12 attempts, including a nifty 62-yard TD run in the third quarter to give

the Shamrocks a 14-0 advantage.

CC, which thrives on field position, opened the scoring when it took its first drive from the Stevenson 46 following a short punt for a score.

The Shamrocks marched methodically in eight plays, capped by sophomore fullback Eric Vojtkovsky's 1-yard run.

CC's defense, meanwhile, put the clamps on Stevenson's top ground gainer, Matt McCowan, as his 1,000-yard rusher who was limited to 32 yards on 17 carries on the day.

"They (CC) are very quick side-to-side, they play with

excellent pursuit," Stevenson coach Tim Gabel said. "Both linebackers and ends are very fast and obviously they paid attention wherever Matt was lined up."

After being outgained 112-47 in total offense in the first half, Stevenson was able to move the ball at times, but CC ended up with a total of 299 yards to the Spartans' 111.

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CC

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Baechler. "But what I want to know with teams at this level is what about the front line? We can't look at one player; we're looking at the fronts. They have a very good front."

And Mach feels the same way about the Chiefs.

"We'll have to work at controlling the offense more than we have," he said. "Both of us try to control the football, and we'll have to possess the football as much as possible to keep them off the field. We didn't do that against Stevenson (in a 35-7 win). We did it with big plays; we weren't driving the ball."

Canton has played sterling ball since its 46-21 thumping at the hands of Westland John Glenn in Week 2, earning a big measure of revenge last week with a 49-27 pasting of the Rockets.

"Against Glenn, we jumped out so fast that they got out of their control mode and were

forced to throw more," said Baechler. "They still make the big plays, but a lot of our points came in flurries with a short field and big plays. If you can drive 30 yards instead of 70, chances are good that you're going to score and score quick."

"I know Glenn had guys hurt," said Mach, "but watching them on film they just seem to be getting better and better every week, scoring a lot of points. No one has stopped them other than Glenn the first week."

Conversely, the Shamrocks have only been stopped once — an upset by Orchard Lake St. Mary's with CC at less than 100 percent. But the mystique of playing CC doesn't enter into the minds of the Chiefs — at least Baechler doesn't think so.

"We're not playing against their tradition, we're playing against the 11 guys on the field; if we do that, we have a shot," said Baechler, whose team is

making its third-straight trip to the district final.

"On the board (Monday), I had their formations written up, so we could talk about what they do and all of that. Some of the kids were overwhelmed, but a couple of the starters came in and went 'Yeah, it's a lot of stuff, but it's the same things we've seen all year.'"

"That made me feel good. They do a lot of things, but

they run two-tight (ends) 70 percent of the time, so we seem to be similar."

And with both teams running the same offense, relying on speedy backs with a solid offensive line and the same defensive game plan of denying the run and stringing out the line, the district final should come down to which team can do the little things well.

"We have to stop them and

make sure they don't possess the ball," said Mach. "But when we do get the ball, we have to do something with it."

"I've always played for first downs, and if you get enough of them, the touchdowns will take care of themselves," said Baechler. "We just have to play who we play, get the job done and move on."

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Dec. 1 Calgary	7:00 PM
Dec. 3 Anaheim	7:30 PM
Dec. 6 St. Louis	7:00 PM
Dec. 12 Minnesota	7:30 PM
Dec. 14 Columbus	7:30 PM
Dec. 19 Dallas	8:00 PM
Dec. 21 NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Dec. 26 Columbus	7:30 PM
Dec. 31 St. Louis	7:00 PM

JANUARY

Jan. 3 Phoenix	7:30 PM
Jan. 13 Chicago	7:30 PM
Jan. 19 Vancouver	7:30 PM
Jan. 30 Florida	7:30 PM

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