

Falcons Destroy NF Raiders, 27-0

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Sports Editor

Sports

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Oh, what one rival football game can do for a football team.

Football has been a losing sport at Farmington High School with only three winning seasons in the last 14 years but it's a different story now.

Football is the "in" word. Farmington caught North Farmington by surprise and came away with one of the most stunning victories of the 72 season, 27-0.

The Falcons thus finished with a 5-4 mark, their first winning year since '66 which was by the way, the last time Farmington had beaten their North neighbors.

COACH HAL BEARDSLEY labeled the victory the "greatest ever at Farmington" and along with the win came the city championship. The Falcons had toppled Harrison in the season opener, 14-6, and now hold supremacy among the three city high schools.

This marked only the second time Farmington had beaten North in 11 years and for North Coach Ron Holland it marked a season with two losses, the first since '69.

"It was our worst defeat since '66 when Grand Rapids Central trounced us, 41-0," said Holland.

It was apparent that the lack of depth and overall balance finally caught up with North, which finished 7-2 overall.

"We were outplayed by pure enthusiasm," added Holland.



ROUGHING THE KICKER -- North Farmington's Bob Patek (40) flies into the foot of Farmington punter Bob Drake with Raider Jim Graessle (57) looking on. Drake was flattened on the play and Farmington was awarded 15 yards and a first down. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

Churchill's Carol Ruis Wins All-State Acclaim

Churchill High's first All-State athlete is one of the female sex.

Miss Carol Ruis, a 5-6, 130 pound junior won the state championship in the 100 yard backstroke in the first girls' state swim meet at Rochester High School.

The Churchill swimmer placed first in the championship finals with a time of 1:04.95, just .00.138 ahead of Karen Heath of East Lansing.

Our Lady of Mercy of Farmington was the overall team champion with four individual champions.

MISS RUIS co-captained the Churchill squad and also placed fourth in the state in the 200 yard individual medley with a time of 2:24.886.

Churchill's Donna Pownall captured 24th in diving.

Miss Ruis has swum nine years on the Garden City AAU team and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ruis of MacKenzie Drive in Westland.

Bentley placed 10th in the state overall with 83 schools in competition, including 479 swimmers. Bentley's Sue Mooradian placed third in the 50 yard freestyle at .26.45 and Debbie Stone 10th in diving.

Franklin's Laura Wright was fifth both in the 200 yard freestyle and the 50 yard butterfly.

Southfield Lathrup came away with an excellent showing.

THE CHARGERS placed third in the 200 medley relay (2:02.3); Lisa Akerman was third in the 50 yard backstroke (.30.506); Kristine Vandusen was third in the 50 yard backstroke (.34.417); Connie Ortega was fourth in the 50 yard freestyle (.26.489) and second in the 50 yard butterfly (.28.739).

Miss Akerman placed third in the 100 yard backstroke behind Churchill's Miss Ruis and Miss Vandusen was fifth in the 100 yard backstroke.

Dwyer broke loose to the Falcon 38 but Bob D'Agostino fumbled on the following play and Falcon Kevin Renee recovered.

Holton ran a quarterback sneak to his own 45, Brian Ratliff sprinted to the 48, an off-side call moved it into Raider territory and Kevin Ratliff broke loose up the middle for a 47 yard romp. Bob Drake converted to make it 7-0 at the end of the first quarter.

NORTH TOOK the following kickoff, ran three plays and Farmington's Mark Walsh stepped in front of a Dwyer screen pass, picked it off and dashed 24 yards down the left sideline. The kick missed but with 10:44 left in the opening half, Farmington was up, 13-0.

North ran three plays and punted.

Krause picked up a first down for Farmington but the Falcons were forced to punt. An illegal fair catch signal resulted in a Farmington first down but a clipping call nullified that drive and North took over on its 11 after a punt.

Brad Pease broke for 10 yards and a first down but the Raider thrust went by the wayside and a Dwyer pass was intercepted by Krause on North's 31.

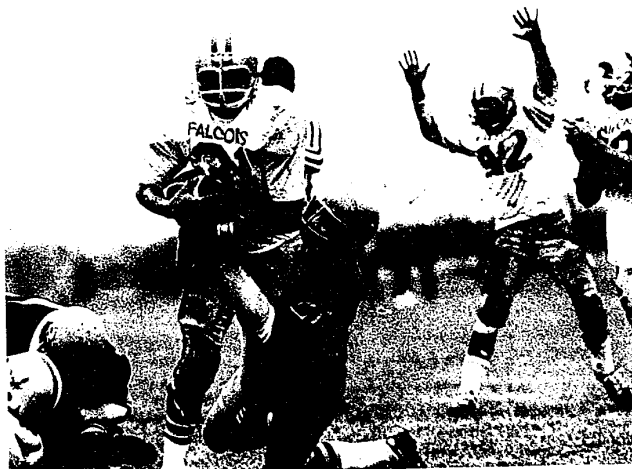
A HOLDING CALL pushed the Falcons back to the 45 but Brian Ratliff sprinted for 32 yards and a first down on the 13. Holton dropped back and lofted a pass to Al Firek for six points. Drake's point after was good after hitting the cross bar and Farmington had a 20-0 halftime lead.

After a Falcon punt, North was in Farmington territory early in the third quarter.

Farmington's defense came to arms with Jim Mascow dropping Dwyer for a five yard loss and Brian Ratigan breaking up a key fourth down pass.


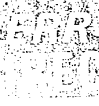



The Falcons took over on their 47. Kevin Ratliff ran for 14 yards twice and Krause sprinted to the 10. A 15 yard penalty pushed Farmington back to the 25 but Brian Ratliff came back the next play with a 10 yard run.

On the next down, Brian fumbled on the 20, but picked it up and ran it to the one. Krause carried it over from there and Drake split the uprisings with North Farmington a stunned opponent.



FARMINGTON TOUCHDOWN -- Falcon Jeff Krause (31) breaks into the end zone with North Farmington's Vic Donahue (80) hanging on.

on. Farmington halfback Kevin Ratliff (42) raises his arms with Dennis Detrich clapping away. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

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