

# Churchill Gets By Northville For 15th Straight

## Chargers Faced With Real Test Friday Against Mott

You have to believe this is another "Year of the Charger."

For the second time in as many weeks, Churchill High rallied its forces to bounce from behind and keep alive the longest current winning streak in Michigan Class A football.

Churchill scored in the final 15 seconds to top Farmington Harrison, 19-13, for victory No. 14 and stretched its two-season winning record to 15 with a come from behind triumph over Northville, 8-7.

After battling to a 0-0 half-time score, Northville jumped in front early in the third but Churchill's defense which has put more points on the board this season than its offense, came up with a two-point safety in the closing seconds of quarter No. 3.

Then, with nine minutes remaining, Charger QB Mark Roncilli flipped a 17-yard touchdown pass to Don Forst and Churchill made a believer out of Northville.

"You really have to give credit to Northville," commented Churchill Coach Ken Kaestner. "They were after us with a 3-2 mark. They ran 36 offensive plays and with our offense lacking the killer instinct, they should have beat us."

Now 15 and counting, Churchill puts its streak and Western Six championship on the line this week (Friday, 3:30 p.m.) at home against a club that along with the Chargers is also undefeated in the Six.

It will be homecoming at Churchill with Waterford Mott a 5-1 opponent overall. Last year Churchill

wrapped up its first Six championship in a 12-0 triumph over Mott, at Mott. This year it will be on Charger territory with the 15-game winning streak an added attraction.

"I really see Mott as the favorite," added Kaestner. "Mott has lost only to state-ranked Pontiac Northern and has been scoring where we have not. Plus for the second week in a row we will be without the services of quarterback Brian Kelly."

The first half with Northville did have one offensive punch for Churchill. Mike Gottshall returned a punt 37 yards to the Northville 40 and one first down later, Roncilli spurred to the five. An offside call nullified the run and that was the extent of the first half Charger punch.

ing, upset minded Northville drew first blood. Al Leirstein fumbled a punt on his own 13 and Northville recovered. Two plays later, Eric Lam bella tossed a 13-yard scoring pass to Jim O'Brien. Keith Trumbull converted and it stood 7-0.

Charger punter Dave Panoff set up the defensive score for Churchill with his 62-yard boot sending Northville back to its own two. After two plays, fullback Doug Crisan was thrown in the end zone by Marty Bay, Dan Laman and Jim McMahon and it was a two-point safety for the Chargers making it a 7-2 contest.

Northville then free-punted and Churchill took over on its 45 early in the fourth quarter. It was third down and six on the Northville 17 when Roncilli combined with

Forest on a post pattern six-point play.

A two-point conversion failed but Churchill was on top for the first time with nine minutes remaining. Northville got its hands on the ball two more times but failed to click against the Charger defense and the Western Six showdown was set with Mott.

Churchill collected nine first downs to Northville's three and rushed for 118 yards with Matt Foster pounding out 33 yards in 14 carries. Roncilli hit on only two of 12 passes for 37 yards. Churchill's defense gave up 36 yards on the ground and 41 in the air.

Now comes Mott, the Western Six championship, No. 16 and the Chargers can't help but look a week ahead to a contest with a rival school named Franklin.



EXPLODING AHEAD is Farmington High fullback Ken DiRocco with Stevenson's Fred O'Keefe (80) attempting to bring him down. Farmington scored in the final seconds to nip Stevenson, 13-9. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

# Salem Dumps Belleville, 34-18, Tuning Up For Trenton Clash

By FRED DELANO

Only Redford Union stands between Plymouth Salem and a chance for at least a share of the Suburban Eight gridiron crown, and through what is a scheduling oddity

for high school football the Rocks will have their opportunity to clear that hurdle Saturday night.

Plymouth pushed its record to 4-1 in the league and 5-1 overall by romping over Belleville, 34-18, as Mark Kraay and Jeff Horton each scored twice while pacing a ground attack which pounded out 279 yards to the Tigers' 90.

The Rocks held a 34-6

fourth quarter lead before feeling the scoring sting of Belleville's aerial superiority, marked by 16 completions in 37 tries, and by then the verdict was sealed.

Sub 8 standings now read: Trenton, 5-0; Plymouth Salem, 4-1; Dearborn Edsel Ford, 4-1; Allen Park, 3-2; Livonia Bentley, 2-3; Belleville, 2-3; Redford Union, 0-5, and Dearborn, 0-5.

Because Salem and Plymouth Canton of the Western Six share the same stadium, Salem will host winless R.U. at 8 p.m. Saturday after a Friday night battle there between Canton and Walled Lake Western.

Although it is a rarity for schoolboy teams to meet on a Saturday night, the scheduling may work to Salem's advantage because by then the Rocks will know the outcome of Friday's Trenton-Edsel Ford contest. The significance, of course, is in the fact that Salem itself will invade Trenton in the league finale Friday, Nov. 2 - perhaps with the championship riding on the outcome.

The Rocks have quite a score to settle with R.U., for the Panthers have whipped Plymouth three years in a row with last year's 12-6 victory snapping a five-game Rock winning streak.

At Belleville, where the Rocks were facing a team which had opened with three wins before losing to Edsel Ford and Trenton, Coach

Tom Moshimer's fleet troops were in full command as they piled up a 21-0 margin before the Tigers could get on the board.

Horton plowed for two- and five-yard touchdowns in the first quarter, adding one extra point, and then Kraay capped a 47-yard march in the second period by scoring from the four. He personally added a two-pointer on a sweep to make it 21-0.

After Hubert Russell of Belleville cut it to 21-6, Plymouth's Andy Jones, a sophomore defensive end, picked up a Belleville punt which had been blocked by Ted Keitzman and turned it into a 31-yard touchdown.

Kraay, who sped for 113 yards in 19 carries, got the last Rock counter from two yards out in the final period, Belleville coming back for two consolation touchdowns against Salem second stringers in the waning minutes.

## Mt. Carmel Rips Aggies, 34-18

Mt. Carmel exploded for three touchdowns in the second half to crush St. Agatha in a Second Division West football clash, 34-18.

It was loss No. 2 for St. Agatha in league action against one win. The Aggies now sport an overall 4-2 mark.

An 11-yard TD romp by Mark Duquette capped a 65-yard march with only four minutes gone to give St. Agatha an early 6-0 lead.

Mt. Carmel's first offensive test was halted by an interception by Aggie back Mike Rex but the Aggies lost possession on downs.

An 83-yard march by Mt. Carmel followed with Bruce Cislo scoring his first of three touchdowns on a five-yard romp and making good a two-point conversion to take an 8-6 advantage.

Leo Vandervennett set up the next Aggie score when he recovered a fumble to set the stage for a Mike Rex to Steve Waslawski 20-yard TD pass. A two-point play failed but St. Agatha again was in charge, 12-6.

With 3:50 remaining in the half, Cislo took it in again, this time from eight yards out. The conversion missed and St. Agatha trailed, 14-12.

But St. Agatha came right back with a 75-yard drive of its own, Duquette scoring from four yards out after setting the score up on a 34-yard burst.

The first offensive play of the second half all but broke St. Agatha's back. Duquette broke loose for a 72-yard TD only to have it called back when an official detected the Aggies with not enough men on the line of scrimmage.

## Last Second Plunge Wins It For Falcons

Stevenson High had itself a ball game for 47 minutes and 49 seconds.

Farmington's game started after that.

With 11 seconds remaining, John Hans plunged into the end zone from one yard out to give the Farmington Falcons a 13-9 homecoming triumph over Stevenson.

It was Stevenson's fifth loss after an opening victory over Redford Union. For Farmington it was the third win in five outings and second in the Inter-Lakes against a loss to Pontiac Northern.

Stevenson's first score came early in the second quarter after Farmington fumbled on its 40. Paul Lilek then broke loose for a 22-yard scoring burst. The conversion attempt was foiled on a bobbled pass from center, a fumble pass being intercepted by Farmington's Dan Milhizer.

The half ended on a three point note for Stevenson with Bob Hope splitting the up-rights from 34 yards out and Farmington found itself down, 9-6.

The Falcons were held to just 56 yards rushing in that half while the Spartans picked up 99. The second half brought a change in domination with Farmington grinding out 140 yards and holding Stevenson to 44.

"It was like two completely different games," said Farmington assistant coach Dave Cutherman.

Farmington woke up in the third stanza with Brian Ratliff capping a 71-yard march with a one-yard burst. His brother Kevin set up the scores on romps of 18 and 12 yards.

The conversion missed but with two minutes left in the third, it was a different game at 9-6.

And Stevenson's game quickly changed as it was held to just three offensive plays the entire fourth quarter.

Then followed a 20-play, 70-yard drive by Farmington sparked by a 24-yard pass from Bob Holton to Al Firek to the eight yard line. But Firek had the ball stolen with Stevenson's Fred O'Keefe gaining possession.

Following came Stevenson's lone three offensive plays of the quarter. With one minute remaining on their own 18, the Spartans came up with a wild hike on a punt. Hope danced back to recover it on his one and got off a punt with Falcon Kevin

Ratliff hauling it in on the Spartan 30.

A 15 yard piling up penalty moved it to the 15 with 38 seconds remaining. Holton then hit Kevin Ratliff for 14 yards.

And with 11 seconds showing, Hans pushed it in from one yard out. Boy Drake made good the conversion and Farmington had made smiles out of homecoming frowns.

Farmington finished with 11 first downs to Stevenson's nine. The Falcons totaled 199 yards on the ground to 145 by Stevenson and 32 in the air on four of eight passes with Stevenson hitting two of five for 16 yards.

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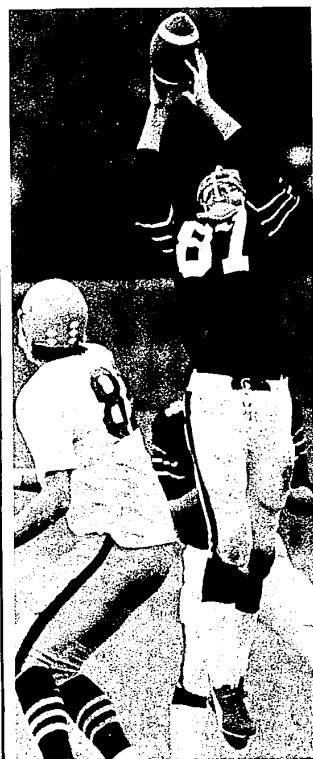
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HAULING IN A PASS is Franklin's Dean Morrison (87) with a North Farmington defender looking on. Franklin routed North, 17-0. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

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