

# Gridders begin second half play

**By OAKLAND COUNTY SPORTS STAFF**  
Prep football swings into the second half of the season this week and teams from several areas are still vying for league honors.

Top games this week include a match-up of powerful Farmington Harrison with not-so-powerful Walled Lake Western in Western Six action; a homecoming match-up at West Bloomfield where the Wayne Oakland League title may be decided when the Lakers host Bloomfield Hills Andover and battle of the winless in the north when Troy and Clawson clash.

Several other good games are on tap for the start of the second half of action. Fearless predictions follow.

**Harrison-W.L. Western**  
Undeafed Farmington Harrison has proved that it is a football power in the Western Six League this season. Hapless Walled Lake Western (0-2) certainly won't be able to ground the Hawks. Harrison's Sam Pink & Company will have Western seeing black and blue.

**Farmington-Pontiac Northern**  
Pontiac Northern is shifty and

speedy, but coach Hal Beardsley's Farmington team has come to far to lose now. Farmington should convince everyone that it deserves to be No. 1 in the Inter Lakes League by upsetting Northern.

**North Farmington-Thurston**  
North Farmington should lay down the laugh to upstart Thurston, which clobbered Oak Park last week. Thurston won't be able to stop the Raider's ground game.

**Lathrup-Adams**  
Lathrup is rolling now, and Rochester Adams will be just an

other team which got in the Chargers' way. For Lathrup, everything points to the Oct. 25 clash with Royal Oak Dondoro.

**Hazel Park-Southfield**  
Hazel Park is going to wipe out everybody — Southfield included — this season. Southfield has a young team which should give a respectable performance, but Hazel Park is just too much.

**Berkley at Seaholm**  
The Maples have dropped their two first two league matches and Berkley rates with the best. The

offense has been weak and things don't look any better this week.

**Country Day at Goodrich**  
Coach Gene Bolly's club evened its record to 2-2 last week against Harper Woods and the Yellow Jackets get the okay this week.

**Au stin at Brother Rice**  
The biggest problem of the unbeaten Warriors face at this point is complacency. After winning over Catholic Central, the locals are a superior team and should not have any trouble with Austin.

**Cranbrook at Kiski, Buffalo, N.Y.**  
The Cranes are boasting a healthy 3-1 record and the offense has been moving well. Kiski features some 200 lbs.-plus ball players but the hometowners get the nod.

**Rochester at Utica-Ford**  
Rochester has been plagued by mistakes all year. This time it is the schedule maker's mistake.

**Southfield Lathrup at Adams**  
Lathrup has developed into one of the stronger teams in the area while Adams just hasn't developed.

**Troy at Clawson**  
The battle of the winless teams. Give the nod here to Tom Conley's Troy team.

**Avondale at Athens**  
Our Father who art in heaven...

**Northwest Suburban League**

North Farmington	W	L
Livonia Franklin	2	0
Garden City East	2	1
Thurston High	1	1
Westland John Glenn	0	0
Oak Park High	0	2

**Metro Suburban Association**

Southfield-Lathrup	W	L
Royal Oak Dondoro	2	0
Rochester Adams	1	1
Utica Eisenhower	1	1
Bloomfield Hills Lahser	0	2
Birmingham Groves	0	2

**Southeastern Michigan Association**

Hazel Park	W	L
Berkley High	2	0
Southfield High	1	1
Royal Oak Embell	1	1
Ferris State	0	2
Birmingham Seaholm	0	2

**Wayne-Oakland League**

W. Bloomfield	W	L
Andover	2	0
Clarkston	1	1
Kettering	1	1
Clarencville	0	2
Milford	0	2

**Central Catholic Division**

Brother Rice	W	L
Notre Dame	2	0
De La Salle	1	1
U-D High	1	1
Catholic Central	0	2
Austin	0	2

**Oakland A League**

North Division	W	L
Lake Orion	3-0	3-1
Avondale	2-1	3-1
Romero	2-1	3-1
Utica	2-1	2-2
Oxford	0-3	0-4
Athens	0-3	0-4

**Oakland A League South Division**

Lampere	3-0	3-1
Utica-Ford	3-0	4-0
Madison	2-1	3-1
Rochester	1-2	1-3
Clawson	0-3	0-4
Troy	0-3	0-4

## Hockey boom brings price hike

**By RON HINGST**  
Normally stable hockey equipment prices have been caught up in the inflationary problems of this country, but interest in the game according to local sources is better than ever.

"Hockey equipment has almost doubled in the last two years, and the biggest jump came last year," said Steve Hammel, owner of supervisor for Wilson Sport Goods, Troy, who has worked for other sport equipment manufacturers.

"Most of the price increases seem to be coming out of Canada," added Bob Phillips, a salesman at Eastside Sporting Goods, Detroit. Phillips said while hockey equipment boosts are uncommon, there have been three 10 percent increases just this year.

But according to Dennis Clemons, manager for Griswold Sports in Birmingham, and Don Shere, president of the Birmingham Hockey Assn., interest in hockey is still growing.

"We should sell more hockey equipment this year than last," said Clemons. "It looks like a better year."

The BHA is currently in the middle of tryouts for youths eight to 20, and although there is room for 90 more participants this year's turnout represents 50 more boys than last year.

The Association operates a \$67,000 budget and has room for 448 boys in the house leagues.

"Response so far has been weak at the 15 and 16 year old level," Shere said.

"There is still time to register," he emphasized.

Tryouts at the various age levels continue this week, followed by a draft, practice Oct. 14-26 and games beginning Oct. 27.

In these times of skyrocketing prices in most every commodity, the BHA held the line for costs to its players.

This year resident participants are charged \$20 and non residents \$30 for ice time costs, referees and insurance which equals a \$5 increase over last year.

"When we're short of players we hurt," Shere said.

To cover ice and referee costs, the BHA plans on X-number of players paying X-number of dol-

lars. If each team is short two players then the cost burden falls on the other players, or as in the case of the local Association, there is a 10 percent deficit.

A survey of two hockey equipment outlets and one manufacturer found it would cost a parent anywhere from \$115 to \$130 to outfit his child from scratch with the maximum costs going up some with age and maximum prices for adults.

Generally hockey equipment is up an average of 10 percent over last year with the heftiest gains coming in helmets and sticks.

"A \$6.95 stick last year would cost \$8.50 this season," Clemons said.

This season is the first year Wilson has ventured into hockey.

The American manufacturer, said one informed source, has styled its line similar to the Cooper brand equipment, but the Wilson prices are somewhat lower than their Canadian competitors.

The parent whose child is just starting hockey can expect a price range for helmets from \$12-\$20; shoulder pads, \$8-\$20; elbow pads,

\$5-\$20; shin pads, \$7-\$40; gloves, \$10-\$20; jerseys, \$11-\$30; pants, \$15-\$40; socks, \$5-\$7 and skates, \$20-\$100.

Once again the lower prices on the scale are aimed at the younger set while the more quality material and adult gear are at the higher end of the spectrum.

The stiff jump in helmets was caused by a new regulation which governs the quality of the headgear to insure maximum protection.

Clemons said there has been an influx of competitors in cheaper brands of hockey equipment.

But he added this word of caution: "You're not going to find a quality pad in the cheaper equipment."

"It doesn't always pay to carry the cheaper brands."

Clemons pointed out that to gain the maximum protection many players and parents would rather pay the extra buck rather than go the less expensive route and risk injury.

## Dressage champ and her horse

The storyline about the love of a girl and her horse is trite and sentimental but in the case of 15-year-

old Cyndy Miller, of Bloomfield Hills, it is a daily fact of life.

Cyndy recently took the national

junior dressage championship in Cleveland, and she readily admits that she owes a lot of credit to her sturdy mount, Royal Sterling.

"The horse means a lot in dressage, and Sterling was a definite factor in the championship," she said.

For the uninitiated, dressage is a type of horsemanship by which a horse's gait and direction is changed by subtle almost imperceptible movements by the rider. It requires exacting muscle control by the rider and, of course, the cooperation of a well-trained animal.

This co-operation and training is built through long hours of practice, almost every day for Cyndy and Royal Sterling, and the rider and horse often develop a relationship more than just animal and trainer.

"Royal is like a pet to me, but he's really like a good friend more than anything," Cyndy said.

And Cyndy said that the horse, which because of its dressage training is worth several thousands of dollars, was not for sale.

Cyndy qualified for the Cleveland championships by taking the Midwest championship at Chicago earlier this year. She trains out of Cornerstone Farms in Clarkston.

Cyndy is aware of the amount of time riding takes from her day-to-day schedule, but she says that the sacrifice is well worthwhile.

"Two other people at Detroit Country Day School are now into riding. I love to ride and I guess I'll just keep riding until I can't do it anymore," she said.

North Farmington blanked Walled Lake Western, 7-0, in a nonleague girls' tennis meet last week. In No. 1 singles, North Farmington's Cindy Ford defeated Anne Mead, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5.

North Farmington coach Norm Stanislawski is optimistic about his squad's chances in the Northwest Suburban League. "We have five starters back from last year, so we can be in the race," he said.

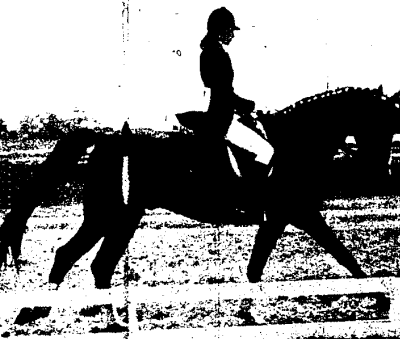
"I'll know more after we play Oak Park."

"It's kind of rough to predict where we'll finish because we play every team once and then have the league meet. That doesn't leave much room for mistakes. You can't redeem yourself the next time around."

In an earlier meet, Farmington Harrison defeated North Farmington, 5-1.



CYNDY MILLER



Cyndy and Royal display the dressage form that earned them a first place at the junior national championships in Cleveland.

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