

# Harrison gridders have tough act to follow

By TOM BAER

It's difficult to discuss this year's Farmington Harrison football team without a word or two about last season's Hawk squad.

Harrison will open its season Sept. 13 at Farmington High without many of the players who made the Hawks' 1974 unit one of the most powerful Class A teams in the state. Harrison was undefeated in the Western Six League and compiled an 8-1 overall record. The only loss came against No. 1 rated Plymouth Salem in the final game of the season.

Harrison coach John Herrington would like to repeat last season's success, but he lost 18 lettermen through graduation. Harrison has 22 returning lettermen, but that's misleading because everyone received a letter and the school had no junior varsity team. "It's going to be difficult to repeat

this last season), but we have some good personnel back and we'll try to build around them," Herrington said. "No doubt about it. Last year's team was strong, and some graduated Hawks are going to be impossible to replace. For example, quarterback Sam Pink, now at Purdue University

on a football scholarship, passed for seven touchdowns and ran for 15 more. He also handled the team's punting and was a rugged stopper at linebacker.

How do you replace a Sam Pink? "You don't," answered Herrington. "You get a kid like Pink once every 10 years if you're lucky. I feel you don't replace these kids. You find different kids with different abilities and you have them do different things."

ONE IMPRESSIVE Harrison player who didn't graduate is senior place kicker Paul Rogind. A soccer-style kicker, he learned it from his father who played soccer in Denmark. Rogind was a second-team all state selection for his specialty. He's also an outstanding defensive safety and holds the school record for interceptions. "He's our top player," Herrington said. "He's even better this year. He may play some at cornerback and he's a great defensive safety."

Another running back with a bright future is junior tailback Mike Bowden, a 6-1, 185-pounder. "He's big, strong and fast," Herrington said. "He didn't play too much last year, but he looked good when he did play. And he's looked good so far this fall."

Herrington has two quarterbacks—Jeff Thorne (5-9, 138) and Chuck Roberts (5-9, 145)—trying to fill Pink's shoes.

"It's obvious that we're not going to be able to run power sweeps with the quarterback like we did last year," Herrington said. "Anytime we got near the goal line—QB sneak. This year, we won't be able to do that, but our quarterbacks are smart and good ball handlers."

Harrison's line will be "inexperienced and small," according to Herrington. The biggest linemen are senior Kerry Welborn (6-4, 175) and junior Bill Blackmer (6-4, 180).

"THEY'VE BOTH looked pretty good so far, but our line has a long way to go. Our guards are only around 135-140 pounds. We don't even know who our guards will be yet, and we're having a lot of trouble at center."

But Herrington is looking for a good year from senior tight end Rob Branchau (6-3, 185), who saw some action last year. "He has good hands and he's a hard-hitting kid," Herrington said.

Senior Tim Harsha saw extensive action last season. At 5-11, 170 pounds, he could play linebacker and backup.

Harrison will begin its defense of the Western Six football title at home on Sept. 27 against Plymouth Canton. With Harrison going through a rebuilding year, many coaches pick Livonia Churchill to regain its football prominence and win the Western Six crown this year.

"I think Livonia Churchill should have the inside track," Herrington said. "They have a lot of returning lettermen including that big Matt Foster. He's big (6-3, 215) and a good runner. Waterford Mont should also be good. They have a lot of lettermen but I don't know much about them."

Harrison Football—Varsity	
Sept. 13 at Farmington	2:00
Sept. 20 Groves	2:00
Sept. 27 Canton	2:00
Oct. 4 Northville	2:00
Oct. 10 at Mont	8:00
Oct. 18 W.L. Western	2:00
Oct. 24 at Churchill	3:30
Nov. 1 at N. Farmington	2:00
Nov. 7 at Salem	8:00

Junior Varsity	
Sept. 18 Farmington	3:45
Sept. 25 at Groves	7:00
Oct. 2 at Canton	4:00
Oct. 7 at Northville	7:00
Oct. 14 at Mont	3:45
Oct. 22 at W.L. Western	4:00
Oct. 28 Churchill	3:45



Harrison's Tim Harsha warms up before a recent practice session. (Staff Photo by Harry Mauthee)

## Observer & Eccentric SPORTS

10A (F)

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# Chuck Catenacci--a champion on wheels

By CORINNE ARATY

After his first attempt at competitive outdoor roller skating last month in New York City, Eugene "Chuck" Catenacci came home to Farmington Hills with six gold medals and one silver.

Up until the international race, the 20-year-old speed skater had performed competitively only on indoor rinks.

Not only did Catenacci sweep the field, but he also broke two records—the 500 meter with a time of 48.9 and the 1,000-meter two-man relay with a 5:00.2 clocking, 10 seconds under the previous record. His relay partner was Duane Dooley of Brighton.

Catenacci's gold medals came in the senior men's 500, 1,500 and 3,000-meter competition. He also earned golds in the senior two-man 1,000-

meter relay and the senior two-man mixed 1,500-meter relay.

The silver medal was for the senior four-man 3,000-meter relay. Catenacci, a 1972 graduate of Farmington High School, won an overall first place and was named a U.S. Outdoor Roller Skating champion.

One of the differences between indoor and outdoor competition is the roller skate wheels. Catenacci uses an Italian-made plastic and fiber wheel for the outdoor skating. Soft cedar wheels that have to be sanded after each race are used on the wooden floors of the indoor rinks.

IN PREPARING for competition, Catenacci, who has been skating competitively for seven years, trains daily, usually on the smooth asphalt parking lot of the First Baptist

Church in Redford Township. For several months before a meet, he spends about three hours a day on skates when the weather is clear.

"To be a competitive skater you have to live, eat, breathe and sleep skating," Catenacci said.

As a meet approaches, Catenacci, who stands 5-8, drops from his normal weight of 175 pounds to about 170. With ample space for skating, Catenacci said he reaches a speed of about 35 miles per hour.

Undoubtedly, his speed helped him sweep the field in New York. And now Catenacci is preparing for an international meet planned for Rome, Italy, next March.

He and his fellow skaters are training for a national invitational meet in Cincinnati in November. Catenacci also may participate in three other big meets—the state meet at Detroit's Northland Roller Rink in June, the Great Lakes Regionals in Troy in July and the nationals in Texas in the summer of 1976.

Catenacci's first big win came in 1969. Still a junior (18 years and under) competitor, he beat all the seniors in the state in a five-mile meet.

In the 1974 state tourney, he entered five events and took five firsts. In his seven years of competitive skating, he has won 185 trophies and medals. He holds four state records to go with three regional marks and two international standards from last month's competition.

CONTRARY TO THE television and movie image, competitive speed skating is not a contact sport.

"It's just like track," Catenacci said. "You're disqualified for contact with another skater. And you can't weave. You have to stay in your lane."

Catenacci added: "There's a lot of smarts involved and the fastest skater doesn't necessarily win. You have to know when to break, when to take the lead. And you have to know your competition. It takes a lot of meets and a lot of experience to pick up this kind of smarts."

Catenacci, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Catenacci, attended Oakland Community College for a year and now works for the state Liquor Control Commission.

His coach, Chick DuVall, is a former speed skater in the Detroit area. Calling competitive speed skating a growing sport, Catenacci said there is

a need for area ice rinks to allow roller skaters to use the cement floors during the off months for practice.

Competitive roller skating is an expensive sport. The total equipment package runs into several hundred dollars for Catenacci. That includes

axels, bearings and several sets of shoes and wheels.



Chuck Catenacci rolls around a church parking lot in Farmington. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthee)

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