

Hawk defense shuts down Northville attack

By C.J. RISAK

Farmington Harrison's offense gained 237 yards and scored every point in the Hawks' 16-0 victory over Northville in Western Six League football last Saturday.

But credit this win to the defense. It was the defense that came up with the big plays to frustrate Northville in the WSL opener for both teams.

Northville, in fact, had all sorts of problems putting together anything resembling a scoring threat. But the Mustangs did have their chances, thanks to some miscues by the Hawk

offense. The key series in the contest came at the outset of the third quarter. Harrison had a 7-0 lead, which it had gained on a 12 play, 73-yard drive at the end of the first period.

But Hawk quarterback Bruce Morrison fumbled the snap on the third play of the second half, and Northville's Dan Troher recovered at the Harrison 34-yard line.

The Mustangs moved down to the Harrison eight-yard line thanks to big play on fourth and nine from the 33. Northville quarterback Dave Greer fired a 10-yard completion to end Rob

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Marzoni, to give Northville a first down.

But the Hawk defense stiffened, and on second and eight from the eight, senior defensive back Steve Twigg intercepted Greer's pass in the end zone and returned it to the six.

"WE PLAYED SOME good defense today," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "(Defensive) Coach Sutter's defense did it for us. If they had scored then (in the third quarter), they'd have gotten back into the ball game."

The Hawk offense didn't waste much time taking advantage of its reprieve. Morrison got the team rolling from the

six, completing three passes in a 16-play drive, the last covering 24 yards to end Reggie Upshaw for the touchdown.

End Dave Prestel came up with two big receptions to keep the drive going. On third down and 18 from the Harrison 20, Morrison hit Prestel with a 30-yard completion for a first down.

Later in the drive, the Hawks were faced with a fourth and five from the Northville 33-yard line. Again Morrison found Prestel on the sideline, and the senior wide receiver just managed to keep both feet in bounds on the catch.

Greg Mehall's extra point kick failed, but Harrison had a 13-0 lead

with 9:43 left in the game.

Mehall made up for his missed PAT minutes later, kicking a 33-yard field goal. The play was set up after Harrison's Bruce Yeager picked off a Greer pass and returned it to the Northville 43.

Two Ken Kopko runs moved the ball to the Mustang 20, but the Hawks couldn't pick up another first down, and Mehall was called on for the field goal.

THE FIRST QUARTER was almost identical to the third. Northville couldn't move the ball in its first possession (the Mustangs managed only two first downs in the first half), but Harrison was even worse. Kopko fumbled on the team's second play and Northville's Ed Burry recovered at midfield.

But Harrison's defense held and forced Northville to punt. The Hawk offense immediately atoned for its error by marching for its first score. Kopko carried the ball six times in the drive, gaining 28 yards, but it was Morrison who got the touchdown on a six-yard run. Mehall's point made it 7-0, Harri-

son.

Harrison moved to the Northville 31 in the second quarter, but the drive fizzled when Morrison's fourth-down pass fell incomplete.

"Our offense didn't click as well as it should have," Herrington said. "We just didn't get the right play at the right time."

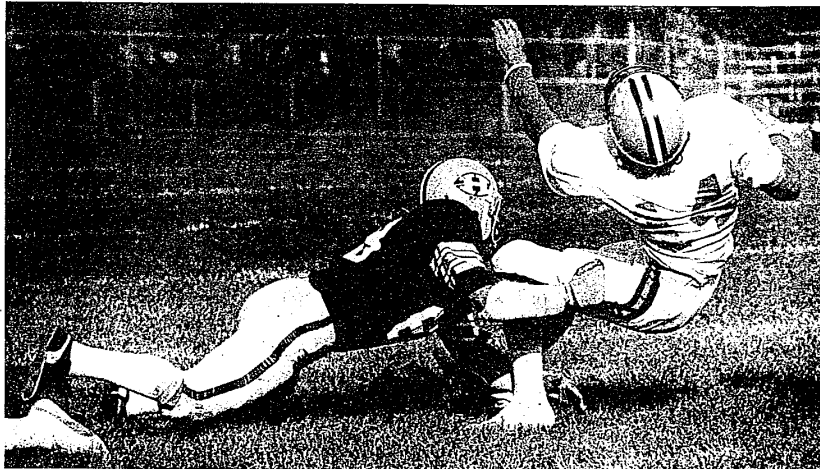
The offense did grind out 185 rushing yards in 47 plays. Morrison passed for 72 more, on a four-for-seven performance. Kopko gained 87 yards on 22 carries to lead the ball carriers, with fullback Jim Miller rushing for 58 yards in 10 attempts.

Northville was limited to 108 total yards - 76 rushing in 27 plays and 32 passing, with Greer completing three of 13. Scott Millard was the leading Northville rusher with 33 yards on nine attempts.

Harrison had 14 first downs to seven for Northville. Each side had two turnovers. Harrison's came on fumbles and Northville's came on interceptions. Harrison, now 3-0 on the season, travels to Waterford Mott Friday night.



Halfback Ken Kopko rambles for yardage against Northville.



Harrison's John Pesci (dark uniform) drags Northville quarterback Dave Greer down for a loss. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)

Falcon cagers survive Harrison rally, 38-33

By C.J. RISAK

Farmington withstood a fourth-quarter Farmington Harrison rally to claim its second win of the season, 38-33, in a girls' basketball game Tuesday at Harrison.

The taller Falcons were ahead the entire game, holding leads of 10 points for much of the contest. But the scrappy Hawk squad, led by senior Linda Bache, never let Farmington pull away and finally rallied to pull within one point, 32-31, with 2:50 remaining in the fourth quarter.

The Harrison rally was spurred by a press defense that forced several Falcon turnovers. Lisa Sabbe cut Farmington's lead to 32-28 with two free throws at the 3:22 mark of the final quarter. Bache stole the ball on the Farming-

ton inbound pass and was fouled. She missed the free throw, but Beth Dilley rebounded and scored to pull the Hawks with two, 32-30.

Dilley's free throw, following another lead to 32-31 with 2:50 left, but the Hawks could forge no closer.

Betsy VanDeusen, who led all scorers with 16 points, hit a pair of free throws for Farmington with 2:45 on the clock, and then with two minutes remaining, VanDeusen stole the ball and scored, putting Farmington ahead by five, 36-31.

"IT GOT A little out of hand there at the end," Farmington Coach Bob Lekovich said afterwards. "We caught it in time. They're (Harrison) a good, scrappy ball club."

Farmington jumped out to the leader Harrison steal, cut the Farmington

in the opening period, 8-5, behind six points by VanDeusen. The Falcons scored the first seven points of the second quarter to take a 15-5 lead, and were up by eight, 17-9, at the half.

Harrison was unable, throughout the contest, to penetrate Farmington's 2-1-2 zone defense. "I think the girls were a little intimidated by their size," Harrison Coach Neil Redford said at halftime.

Redford decided to use the press in the second half to try and generate some offense. The strategy paid dividends in the final quarter, as Farmington began turning the ball over and

Harrison was able to make a run for the lead, a run that fell a bit short.

Farmington's defense held Harrison to only two first-half baskets, but the Hawks scored six buckets in the final period with the press.

Harrison's Bache was the only other player in the contest to score in double figures, as she netted 11 points.

Farmington, 2-2 on the year, travels to Walled Lake Central, the defending Inter Lakes League champions, for a contest Thursday. Harrison, 1-2 for the season, is at Northville Thursday for its Western Six League opener. Both games start at 8 p.m.



Farmington's Betsy VanDeusen (dark jersey) is closely guarded by Harrison's Linda Bache. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Local gridders on victory trail

By C.J. RISAK

The three Farmington high schools couldn't have started their conference seasons any better.

All three posted convincing wins, all by shutouts. Farmington got its first of the season by a 10-0 score against Walled Lake Central, and North Farmington routed Garden City East 25-0 last Friday. Harrison kept the Farmington scoreless stering intact by blanking Northville 16-0 Saturday.

The Falcons' win over Central should have been easier. Twice early in the first quarter, Farmington had the ball inside the Central 10-yard line and failed to score.

Central put together some scoring threats of its own during the contest, including a drive from its own 14 to the Falcon 10-yard line. But the Farmington defense, helped by four illegal motion penalties, kept the Vikings from scoring.

Farmington didn't have much trouble moving the ball, once it found the right combination on offense. John Karpach rushed for over 100 yards for the second week in a row (101 yards on nine carries). Bob Bengie and Dave Hall, alternating at the other running back spot, combined for 64 yards.

North simply overpowered an out-manned East squad. East had posted two impressive victories before the North game, scoring 46 points against

Romulus. With the contest being played on the East field, the Garden City team must have thought it had a good shot at knocking off the defending Northwest Suburban League champs.

North Greg Goldstein was superb, completing 11 of 19 passes for 193 yards and a touchdown, and carrying the ball eight times for 71 more and another score.

The running backs did their job for North as well. Rich Nutter, the team's leading ball carrier, was limited to 27 yards rushing, but Dan Cohen picked up the slack by gaining 91 yards on 14 attempts.

But it was the defense that did the job again for the Raiders. East had collected 316 total yards against Romulus, but only managed 63 yards rushing and 19 passing against North.

Harrison remained the only undefeated team in Farmington by beating Northville. It was a closer contest than the score might indicate.

Harrison scored in the first quarter, and in the third period the Hawks still clung to that one-touchdown lead.

A fumbled snap by Harrison was recovered by Northville at the Hawk 34-yard line early in the second half. Northville drove inside Harrison's 10, but the Hawk defense came through in the clutch as defensive back Steve Twigg intercepted a pass in the end zone.

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