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RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

John Herrington: "I just can't believe that things worked out this way... in the playoffs for the third-straight year."

Hawks playoff bound!

By Tom Baer
staff writer

Farmington Hawks football fans didn't have to interrupt their partying last Friday, not even to check out the scores on "The Paul Carey Football Scoreboard."

They knew the only two scores that counted — Harrison 9, Avondale 0, and Rochester Adams 14, Rochester 0.

Because of that combination of victories, Harrison, unbeaten through nine regular-season contests, will advance to the state Class A high school playoffs for the third-straight season.

Captain John Herrington's Hawks will play Bloomfield Hills Lahser Saturday afternoon at Birmingham Groves High School.

Harrison and previously unbeaten Rochester had been fighting it out for the second — and final — playoff spot in Region 3, and bonus points (awarded for opponents' victories) would have been critical. But by losing, Rochester eliminated itself from the running.

"One of our teachers was at the (Adams-Rochester) game, and he met us at our bus," Herrington said after the Avondale game. "He very passively gave us the news."

"I just can't believe the way things worked out... in the playoffs for the third-straight year."

Harrison, which moved up to Class A this season after spending the 1980 and '81 seasons in Class B, won the state championship last year and advanced to the semis two years ago.

HARRISON HAD its problems with Avondale, a Class B school with three losses going into Friday's game.

Sophomore tailback John Miller, who gained 101 yards on 22 carries, scored on a two-yard run on the Hawks' first possession of the second half. Senior Dave Blackmer, who tied a state record with a 55-yard field goal last season, missed the extra point, but made up for it by kicking a 39-yard field goal later in the quarter.

Harrison's statistics showed the Hawks rushed for 160 yards to Avondale's 54. Harrison completed seven of 14 passes for 79 yards. Avondale was limited to 12 passing yards on one completion. Marcus Thompson gained 41 yards on 11 carries for the losers.

HARRISON 9 — AVONDALE 0			
State	HHS	ATA	
First downs rushing	8	1	
First downs passing	1	0	
First downs penalty	1	0	
Yards rushing	160	54	
Yards passing	79	12	
Passes	7-14-0	1-10-0	
Points — average	4-07	0-00	
Penalties — yds. lost	8-45	6-75	
Fumbles — No. lost	3-1	3-1	
HARRISON	0 0 0 0	0	
AVONDALE	0 0 0 0	0	
SCORING PLAYS			
HARRISON — John Miller 2 run (kick wide)			
HARRISON — Dave Blackmer 39 field goal			

Avondale's only scoring threat came midway through the fourth quarter. The Yellowjackets drove to the Hawk 15 before a holding penalty spoiled things.

Defensive statistics weren't available, but Herrington cited the play of Blackmer, a linebacker when he's not kicking field goals or running from the upback slot, cornerback Fina Baker and nose guard Jim Barkach for their excellent play.

Avondale coach Rick Brewer mentioned linebackers Jim DeClerk and Ken Campbell and defensive ends Kirk Mosher for their defensive efforts in holding Harrison to its lowest point total of the season.

"We fought for our lives," Herrington said. "Avondale was well prepared and played us tough."

The Harrison-Lahser playoff games has a 2 p.m. start at Groves, located at 13 Mile and Evergreen roads.

Raiders clip Farmington, 21-14

By Tom Baer
staff writer

North Farmington coach Ron Holland made good on his prediction.

After the fifth game of the 1982 high school football season, Holland went on record as saying his struggling Raiders would win the remaining four games and finish with a winning season.

Last Saturday, North Farmington closed out its campaign with a 21-14 victory over backyard-rival Farmington High School to finish at 5-4. The win was the Raiders' fourth in a row since their coach went out on the limb.

"We were 1-4 and we'd just been beaten by (Westland John) Glenn and been shut out by (Livonia) Franklin," said Holland, who was honored before

the Farmington game for having won 150 games in his 24 seasons as North's head coach.

"But we got together and said, 'We're going to have a winning season.' Our kids believed in that and they went out and did it. I'm proud of them all."

But Farmington, which snapped a 17-game losing string when beat Livonia Churchill a couple of Fridays

ago, almost spoiled that storybook ending. Coach Rich Roy's Falcons, playing catchup the whole game, had several opportunities to tie or beat North late in the game. It just wasn't to be.

NORTH SCORED on its first three possessions of the game. Senior quarterback Matt Shepard heaved a 87-yard touchdown pass to junior end Scott Draper to open the scoring.

An interception by North free safety Marty Shoberg at the Falcon 35 set up North's next TD, a two-yard run by tailback Eric Collier. North's next drive ended with another short plunge for a TD by Collier. Junior Tom Spahn kicked all three extra points.

Farmington rallied on the strong right arm of QB Paul Wenson, who threw 16 yards to Dan Zang for a touchdown and to Chris Keller for a two-point conversion. The halftime score was 21-8.

"We stunk in the first half," Roy said, whose Falcons finished at 1-8. "We just spotted them too many points. You can't give a guy like Ron 21 points in the first half and expect to win."

"But these kids never quit. Everybody should know that. They've been down a lot all season, but the never quit on us."

The second half belonged to Farmington.

The Falcons advanced to the North 32 before tailback Jeff O'Malley fumbled and North's David Hughes recovered. North went nowhere on its series, and Farmington got the ball around midfield on a short Raider punt.

After a couple of handoffs, Wenson passed 52 yards to Zang for a touchdown, but couldn't complete a pass for a two-point conversion.

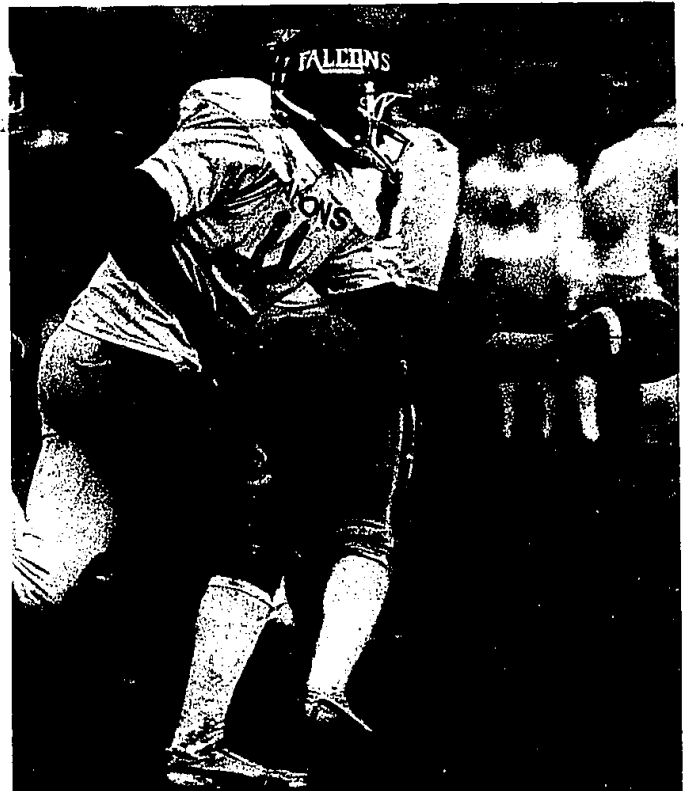
FROM THEN ON, it was a matter of missed opportunities for Farmington. The Falcons got the ball when Raider tailback Ken Goss fumbled on the North 40. Wenson guided the Falcons to the North 10 before O'Malley fumbled on a draw play and the ball was recovered by North's Mark Carrier.

Farmington had a couple more possessions, but just couldn't sustain the drives.

Wenson completed 15 of 31 passes for 203 yards. Zang and John Colpison were his main receivers. North passed for 161 yards and outbushed FHS, 95 yards to 53. Goss gained 50 yards on 18 carries, and Collier had 37 on eight.

Saturday's game was the 21st renewal of the Farmington-North football series. North has won 15 of the games, including the last six in a row, to Farmington's four. The schools played to a scoreless tie in 1964.

NORTH 21 — FARMINGTON 14			
	NP	FHS	
First downs rushing	3	3	
First downs passing	1	5	
First downs penalty	3	3	
Yards rushing	95	53	
Yards passing	161	203	
Passes	6-11-0	15-31-2	
Points — average	4-28	1-32	
Penalties — yards lost	10-104	6-64	
Fumbles — No. lost	2-2	2-3	



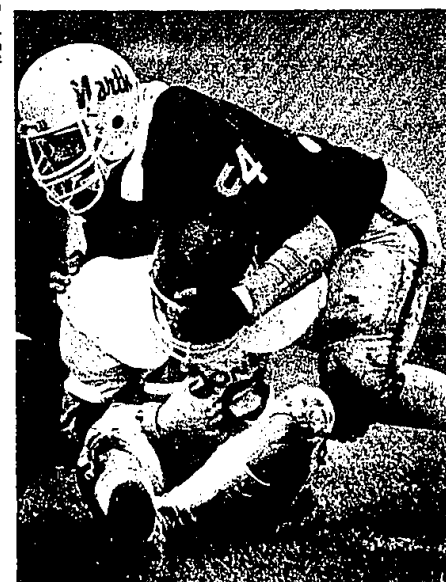
photos by RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Farmington QB Paul Wenson threw for 203 yards in a losing effort against North Farmington last Saturday.

Previous encounters

North Farmington and Farmington have been playing each other in football since 1962. Following are the results of the previous Raider-Falcon encounters.

- 1981 — Raiders 22, Falcons 15
- 1980 — Raiders 28, Falcons 0
- 1979 — Raiders 27, Falcons 0
- 1978 — Raiders 55, Falcons 0
- 1977 — Raiders 9, Falcons 3
- 1976 — Falcons 26, Raiders 6
- 1975 — Falcons 13, Raiders 8
- 1974 — Raiders 26, Falcons 12
- 1973 — Raiders 42, Falcons 7
- 1972 — Falcons 27, Raiders 0
- 1971 — Raiders 41, Falcons 13
- 1970 — Raiders 44, Falcons 7
- 1969 — Raiders 20, Falcons 0
- 1968 — Raiders 41, Falcons 0
- 1967 — Raiders 7, Falcons 0
- 1966 — Falcons 20, Raiders 0
- 1965 — Raiders 14, Falcons 0
- 1964 — Raiders 0, Falcons 0
- 1963 — Raiders 16, Falcons 6
- 1962 — Raiders 7, Falcons 0



North's Eric Carrier (54) hauls down Farmington's Chris Keller.

North earns NSL cage crown

Light the skis! Two Farmington-area girls' basketball teams have something to celebrate.

North Farmington captured its first-ever Northwest Suburban League championship with a 30-26 victory over Garden City Thursday. It was also a big night for Farmington High, which won its first game in 17 starts this fall with a 27-19 showing against Northville in the losers' bracket of the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament.

"NORTHWEST SUBURBAN League champion! I love saying it," said a happy North coach Greg Grodzicki after the game. "I'm just so darn proud of these girls. They've worked so hard for the last three years."

The second quarter, during which North scored six points and held Garden City scoreless, made the difference. GC actually outscored the Raiders in the first and third quarters and played them even in the fourth.

"We played a tough man-to-man defense the whole game," Grodzicki said

"We overplayed their big scorer, Linda Webb. Marsha Thompson guarded her all night. We just wouldn't let her (Webb) get the ball. I think she finished with three field goals."

Amy Asulin, North's 5-foot-7 junior guard, had 11 rebounds to go with her 13 points. "She had to leave in the third quarter when she really got hit in the eye," Grodzicki said. "But she came back to score four important points in the fourth quarter."

North's Suzanne Howley, a 5-10 junior forward, scored seven points. Webb

and Tammy Narrimore each had eight for Garden City, now 6-3 in the league and 14-3 overall.

North, which owns a 14-3 record and an 8-1 conference mark, plays next on Thursday, Nov. 11, at Redford Thurston. The varsity game begins at 7:30 p.m.

FARMINGTON COACH Bruce Brown credited Rhonda Lancaster, a 6-4 junior guard, with helping the Falcons win their first of the season.

"It was a great effort by everybody," Brown said, "but Rhonda played a super game. She set up our offense, had lots of steals on defense and scored 10 points to boot."

Linda Barbrick scored nine points for Farmington, and Tracy Wilkinson led Northville with 10.

The WLAA tournament continues Tuesday. Farmington plays the loser of the Livonia Churchill-Plymouth Salem game at 7:30 p.m. at Churchill.



Greg Grodzicki "I love saying it!"