

Monday, November 22, 1982 O&E

Joy in the mud! Hawks triumph

By Tom Beer
staff writer

Whoever wrote that "no joy in Mudville" stuff certainly wasn't talking about the mud that was most of Birmingham Groves' football field Saturday afternoon.

Along about 4 o'clock, boards of happy folks dressed in green were standing shoe-top deep in the thick, gooey stuff, savoring a high school football victory made possible because their "Casey" didn't strike out.

Farmington Harrison, the scourge of the northern suburbs, had just beaten Milford-Lakeland, 6-3, on two field goals by senior Dave Blackmer in the state Class A playoff semifinal game played before a crowd estimated at 6,200.

Harrison's players and fans won't have to worry about muddy fields and rainy days next Saturday, however. Coach John Herrington's Hawks, now 11-0 this fall and 22-0 over the last two seasons, advance to the Class A finals to play Dearborn Fordson in the Pontiac Silverdome.

Once-beaten Fordson advanced by beating Saginaw Arthur Hill, 3-0, Saturday in the other Class A semifinal at Lansing Sexton High School.

THE FOOTBALL "experts" kept predicting in newspaper columns that Blackmer's foot would make the difference one of these games. And with the muddy conditions (the field was an absolute quagmire between the 50s) limiting the running and passing, last Saturday's game was it.

The 5-foot-10, 185-pound Blackmer, who is leaning toward the University of Michigan, made good on a 34-yard field goal in the third quarter to tie the game at 3-all, and then drilled a 32-yarder with about 5:14 left to play to win it.

"The coach and I got tired of hearing people saying that one of my field goals would make the difference," said a mud-splattered Blackmer, who also runs from the fullback position on offense and plays a rugged linebacker on defense.

"So the papers pick us by 10 points in this game and we end up winning by a field goal."

Assistant coach Bob Sutter, who runs the Harrison defense, stood on another, equally muddy, part of the field and talked about the game.

"I was glad our defense could do the job and that we could get those field goals," he said. "Thank God for a big leg."

Sutter thought for a moment and then added, "And I should also say, thank God for good (center) snaps and holds."

Lakeland, UNBEATEN through its first 10 games this season, drew first blood with a 27-yard field goal with 6:29 left in the third quarter by senior Greg McBride, who is better known for his rugged play at linebacker.

Lakeland tailback Darrin Campbell did most of the legwork on that drive,

which started on the Eagle 27 and penetrated to the Hawk 10.

Harrison came roaring back on its next possession, moving 47-yards on nine plays to the Lakeland 17 to set up Blackmer's tying field goal. Hawk tailback John Miller, who somehow looks and plays a lot older, carried the ball five times on that drive.

Harrison's next score was made possible by the sharp passing of senior quarterback Ken Kish, who completed back-to-back aerials to Rick Main (for 25 yards) and Gordie Dawson (for 16 more) to move the Hawks to the Lakeland 20.

Kish, a 6-1, 175-pounder, had an excellent day with the arm, completing 11 of 19 (no interceptions) for 136 yards through the air.

"Kish is a great quarterback, maybe the best ever to play at Harrison," said Herrington after the game.

Lakeland, whose first-team defense has allowed only one TD this season, stopped Harrison on what looked like a sure score near the end of the first half.

The Hawks, with Miller leading the way, drove to the Eagle nine where they faced a fourth-and-one situation. Herrington decided to go for it with a Blackmer plunge rather than a field

goal. He was just short of the first down, and Lakeland took over and ran out the clock.

LAKELAND, THE Kensington Valley Conference champs, had the ball deep in their own territory with about 1:30 left to play — so one's sure about the time, because the Gorvies' scoreboard broke down right after Blackmer's second field goal — but got stuck around the 40 as time ran out.

The 6-2, 180-pound Miller was the game's leading rusher with 88 yards on 25 carries. Lakeland's Campbell gained 39 yards on 14 rushes. Jim Adams, a senior split end, was Kish's favorite re-

ceiver with five receptions for 59 yards.

Defensively, Blackmer made eight solo tackles assisted on three others, and senior tackle Tim Smigielski was credited with six solos and six assists.

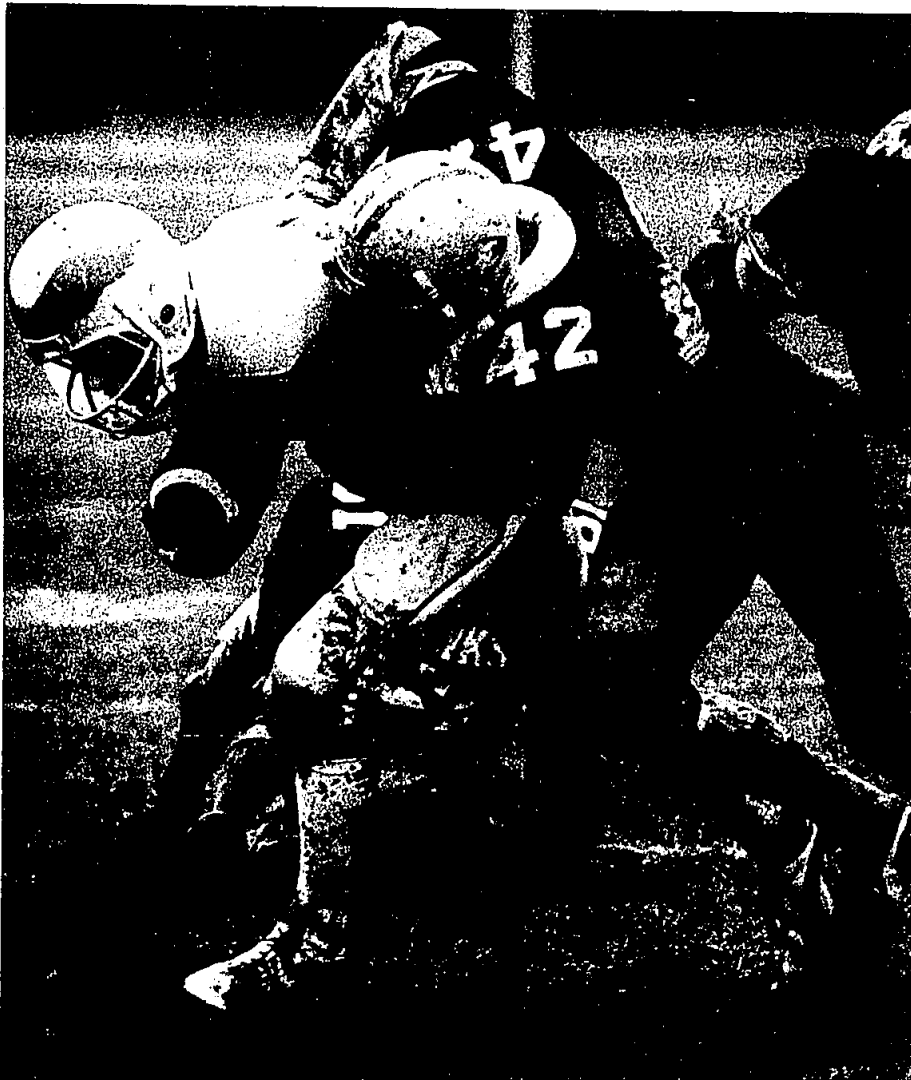
Back on the muddy field, a well-wisher asked Herrington, "Has MSU asked you about coaching there yet?"

Herrington answered, "Naw, I'd have to take Sutter and (assistant coach Bob) Sallow with me if I did that."

Up in the stands, Harrison's band members chanted "On to the Dome! On to the Dome!" to the accompaniment of a big base drum.

HARRISON 1	LAKELAND 2	PTS	ML
First downs rushing	6	4	3
First downs passing	0	0	2
First downs penalty	0	0	3
Yards rushing	110	120	220
Yards passing	136	0	0
Passes	11-19-0	9-16-1	
Points — average	4-33.2	4-31.8	
Penalties — yards lost	2-12	1-3	
Fumbles — No. lost	0-0	2-1	
HARRISON	0 0 2 3	— 6	
LAKELAND	0 0 3 0	— 3	

SCORING PLAYS
LAKELAND — Greg McBride 27 field goal.
HARRISON — Dave Blackmer 34 field goal.
HARRISON — Blackmer 32 field goal.



photos by RANDY BOST/Staff photographer



John Miller, Harrison's sophomore tailback, gains a fow of his 88 yards against Milford-Lakeland.

Harrison's Jamie Schaeffer hauls down Milford Lakeland quarterback Jim St. John during Saturday's Class A semifinal playoff football game at Birmingham Groves.

Hawks squeak by; Falcons slaughtered

By Tom Beer
staff writer

The two games in the opening round of the state Class A girls' basketball district at Redford Thurston Thursday — Livonia Bentley versus Farmington and Thurston versus Farmington Harrison — were as different as they could be.

Bentley increased its overall record to 18-3 with a 77-16 slaughter in the first game of the double-header. Harrison won in a tight squeak, 46-45, in the nightcap.

The Thurston District play resumes on Monday night when Bentley and once-beaten Farmington Our Lady of Mercy clash at 6 p.m. Harrison and Redford Union meet at 8 p.m.

Thurston missed a 20-foot jumper with seven seconds left. An Eagle picked off the rebound, but the buzzer sounded before she could get off a shot.

Bloom, whose charges climbed to 17-4 with the victory, wasn't crowing about a job well done after the game.

"We stole one tonight," said Bloom, in his first year as head coach. "That was probably the worst game we've played all year. Maybe our kids were a little too up for this game. They were nervous."

Alice Short, Harrison's 5-foot-10 senior forward, led all scorers with 18 points. The aggressive, sharp-shooting Short made seven field goals and went four for four from the free-throw line.

"Alice Short's a super ball player," said Bloom. "I feel she's good enough to play on any Division I college team."

Harrison's Dawn Lukomaki, a 5-3 senior guard, scored eight points, and 5-10 senior Sue Ferguson contributed six.

Harrison's rebounding strength was a factor. The Hawks dominated the boards, 45-12. Lydia Glyvidis, Harrison's 6-foot center, picked off 14 re-

bounds, Short had 11 and Ferguson 10. "They're tearing us apart on the boards," Thurston coach George Heger told his team during a time out. "They're getting four or five shots to our one."

Mary Zacharias scored 11 points and Arney had nine for Thurston, which finished at 9-11.

FARMINGTON ENDURED a scoreless first quarter and didn't make its first point until the 4:49 mark of the second when Rhonda Lancaster hit a free throw. Bentley led, 39-3, at halftime.

"It's the kind of game I don't like to get into," said Bentley coach Tom Lang. "Farmington's so down talented-wise. It's just doesn't help our kids."

Bentley with 18 points, and teammate Kim Archer had nine. Bentley shot well from the field, making 31 of 59 shots. Lancaster scored eight points for

Farmington, which closed out a 1-20 season. The winner of the Thurston District advances to the Plymouth Canton Regional.

District box scores

BENTLEY 77 — FARMINGTON 16

LIVONIA BENTLEY (77) — Kim Archer 4, 1-1, 6; Beth Barcoe 2, 0-0, 4; Amy Carl 1, 4-4, 4; Laurie Day 2, 2-3, 18; Kristin Holmstrom 3, 1-4, 7; Nicole Bridget 4, 0-0, 8; Lenore Payne 1, 5-5, 4; Emilie Spa 2, 1-2, 8; Sheri Wolfe 2, 0-0, 4; Julie Young 4, 2-4, 11; Kelly Kowalski 0, 1-4, 1. TOTALS 77, 18-37, 77.

FARMINGTON (16) — Rhonda Lancaster 1, 4-4, 8; Kathy Hota 1, 0-0, 2; Julie Dunn 0, 0-0, 0; Laura Ransberg 2, 0-0, 4. TOTALS 16, 9-10, 16. TOTAL FOULS — Farmington 31, Bentley 15. FOULED OUT Hota (5). BENTLEY 0 3 5 3 — 16 FARMINGTON

HARRISON 46 — THURSTON 45

FARMINGTON HARRISON (46) — Sue Ferguson 3, 0-2, 4; Alice Short 7, 4-4, 18; Dawn Payne 3, 1-2, 7; Dawn Lakomaki 4, 0-1, 8; Lydia Glyvidis 3, 1-3, 7. TOTALS 46, 46-44.

REDFORD THURSTON (45) — Laurie Mack 1, 0-0, 2; Ruth Arney 1, 1-2, 2; Vicki Pettit 4, 1-2, 12; Mary Zacharias 1, 7-4, 11; Cindy Ingeger 3, 2-4, 8; Kim Barton 1, 0-0, 2. TOTALS 45, 17, 10, 45. TOTAL FOULS — Thurston 14, Harrison 14. FOULED OUT None. HARRISON 0 9 13 12 12 — 46 THURSTON 9 12 13 12 — 45