



Chris McCosky

Too early to gauge Glinski

EVERY TIME I SEE John Miller run with the football, I'm reminded of those commercials for Old Vienna beer.

"He wore the number 44. And he ran the football like no other high school half back of his time. Only a sophomore, he gained over 1,000 yards and led his team to an undefeated, state championship season. From the first time you saw him play, you knew he'd found his game."

Now a junior, John Miller seems to have gotten even better, if that's possible. He gained 130 yards and scored four touchdowns in Farmington Harrison's opener against West Bloomfield two weeks ago and he played just three quarters of the game.

Last week, against Farmington, he awed even those who don't like him, those who, perhaps jealous of his talent and publicity, would take pleasure in seeing the gifted athlete fall. There were many of "those" in the Farmington stands last Friday. There will be many of "those" everywhere Miller plays.

Miller was hooted and hollered at by male Falcon fans. He was teased and flirted with by the female Falcon followers. When he went down with a leg cramp in the third quarter, there were those who cheered, hoping the Harrison star would be out of action permanently.

MILLER THRILLED them all. He blasted through gaping holes in the Farmington line and carried linebackers and defensive backs on his back for additional yardage. He gained 168 yards. Even "those" people shook their heads, awestruck by an outstanding performance.

The only people able to stop him were the referees. Penalties nullified another 40 yards that Miller had gained.

There are eight unheralded people who can rightfully claim partial responsibility for Miller's success. Miller knows who they are and he is the first to give them full credit, not just part of it.

Tackles Jerry Eizen and Jim Nelson, center Rich Doll, guards Rob Smigelski, Scott Novis and Ken Hixson, and tight ends Bob Waszczenki and Steve Orsini: these people have been tearing open large holes in enemy defenses for Miller to run through. It may easily be the best, hardest-hitting offensive line in the area, if not the state.

BUT, WHEN A TEAM has won 25 straight games, two straight state championships, is rated number one by all polls in the state, and 15th best in the country by a national newspaper, people (media people, Hawks people, people from other schools) tend to get bored by the team's success. They begin to hunt around for the negative aspects of the team. Once found, these negative aspects are illuminated and magnified.

Such is the case with senior quarterback Scott Glinski.

Glinski has been disappointing for Harrison so far this year. He has completed just five of 17 passes for 109 yards. He has one of the most dangerous receivers in the state, Waszczenki, to throw to and he has been unable to consistently connect with him.

Last week against Farmington, Glinski fumbled five snaps and completed just one of six passes when coach John Herrington pulled him out of the game.

"Last week Scott was not good. He got uptight about the fumbles and couldn't concentrate on the other things. But, when he got back in he looked real good," Herrington said.

INDEED, HE DID look good. He hit Waszczenki for an 18-yard score, then hit him again for the two-point conversion.

Still, Glinski has been the subject of criticism from the media and the fans all this week. To his credit, Glinski has not given up on himself.

"You just can't think about what other people think about you. I know there are people I don't even know saying things about me. I read the newspapers. It's hard. But, you just got to go out there and play and do the best you can," Glinski said.

Glinski said his confidence was at its lowest point when he was pulled from the game last week. Backup quarterbacks Matt Dowd and Vince Egnor are young, but can play. Glinski had to wonder if his status as the Hawks' QB had ended just seven quarters into the season.

"Yes, I felt pressure. Both Matt and Vince are excellent players. They have been pushing me all year. But, I think that's good. I think it helps me play better," Glinski said.

The three quarterbacks had a contest in practice Monday to see who could throw the ball the farthest. Glinski won hands down. He threw the ball some 28 yards down field. He has the talent. He showed it all summer. Herrington is confident his young quarterback will come around.

"HE'S GOING TO come around and do a great job for us," Herrington said. He doesn't put the blame for Harrison's lack of passing prowess solely on Glinski's shoulders. Part of the problem has been pass blocking, which in the West Bloomfield game was poor.

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Photo by ART EMANUEL/Left photograph

Runners representing 18 high school boys and girls cross country teams gathered at Schoolcraft College's three-mile course last Saturday to battle in the annual

Schoolcraft Invitational. Ken Dubois, Stevenson, and Julie Rocca, Churchill, were the individual winners.

At Schoolcraft invitational

North's Armstrong 9th

Livonia Churchill made it a clean sweep Saturday in the Schoolcraft College cross country invitational for boys and girls.

The Churchill boys, gaining three of the top 10 places, defended its crown with a score of 119. Northville and Redford Union were second and third, respectively (results appear on page 5).

Julie Rocca's first-place finish spurred the Churchill girls to the team victory over Western Lakes rivals Livonia Stevenson and Plymouth Salem.

The 16th annual boys event, drawing competitors from 16 schools, was won by Stevenson senior Ken Dubois, who covered the flat three-mile course in 16:00.

RU's David Atkins was second, 25 seconds behind the leader.

Churchill garnered third (Don Miller), fifth (Doug Plachta) and 10th (Paul Schwartz) spots.

Rocca and teammate Dorene Dudek, both seniors, gained first and ninth overall to lead Churchill.

Other Churchill finishers included Jill Calmotto and Amy Masternak, 26 and 27, respectively. And freshman Kristian Schultz was 31st.

NORTH FARMINGTON'S Kirk Armstrong made

the All-Invitational team with a ninth-place time of 16:53.

Farmington High, which placed seventh in the team standings, had two runners in the top 20: Junior Dave Dunneback, with a time of 17:14 placed 15th and freshman Chris Inch, 17:22, placed 17th.

Eric Bennett, 17:41, placed in the number 30 spot for North. North was 11th in the team rankings.

For Farmington Harrison, which placed 13th, Don Lacey was the top runner. He placed 38th with a time of 17:41.

Harrison's girls placed fourth overall, getting a fourth-place finish from Lauri Runk, earning her a spot on the All-Invitational team. Paige Cummins just missed a berth on the All-Invitational team with an 11th place finish.

North girls placed 11th, getting a 20th place finish from Suzanne Hamblin.

Farmington's top finisher was Laura DeAngella, 39th.

REDFORD CATHOLIC Central finished behind Grand Blanc for the second straight week, this time in the 20-team Holy Invitational for boys.

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NSL on display at Silverdome

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

There appears to be some cracks in the football armor of the Northwest Suburban League (NSL).

The NSL, which always seems to boast a state playoff contender, is suffering through one of its poorest non-league records ever.

The six teams, which kick off their league schedule Saturday in a triple-header at the Pontiac Silverdome, have combined for a 3-9 non-conference record so far.

"It looks like the thing is wide open," said Westland John Glenn coach Chuck Gordon. "It matters what team goes on a roll."

The way things have been going, any one of the six teams could win it. Yes, even Redford Thurston, who broke a 16-game losing streak last weekend by shocking Walled Lake Western, 19-14.

"WHEN I SAW Thurston play Northville (a 47-0 loss), they were right in there at halftime," said Gordon, now in his eighth season. "If we don't play better, we're in trouble against RU."

Garden City, North Farmington and Redford Union have yet to win, while defending league champ Livonia Franklin, Thurston and Glenn are 1-1.

Garden City and Franklin square off in the opening game at 10 a.m. The second game pits Glenn and RU at 1 p.m. The final game begins at 4 p.m. with North and Thurston tangling.

"I TOLD our kids this week that no team seems to be a dominant force this year and that the league is up for grabs," said GC coach Dean Shipman. "The triple-header will tell a lot about the league."

Advance tickets, available at the participating schools, are \$3 per person. Tickets at the gate are \$4 each.

Sideline parking is \$2 per car.

Last year's triple-header, held by the NSL for the first time, drew 4,091 fans.

"We generated about \$13,000 in ticket sales last year," said RU athletic director Bob Atkins. "Our total expenses this year are \$4,500."

EMMONS PICKS

Franklin by 6, Glenn and North by 14.

MCCOSKY LIKES

Franklin by 7, RU by 14, North by 17.

Here is a look the six teams playing in the second annual event:

• North Farmington was the season choice in the NSL but has fallen on hard times after losing to Plymouth Salem (12-7) and Walled Lake Central (24-13).

The Raiders have a strong runner in Ken Goss, who came into form at the Silverdome in last year's 17-7 win over RU.

• Redford Union "had the toughest non-league schedule," according to Gordon.

RU lost its opener to Stevenson (12-7) and then fell prey to improving Redford Bishop Borgeson (14-0).

"All their running backs are good — Angel (Don), Macek (Bob) and Manus (Keith)," said the Glenn coach. "I don't know if you can put together as good a backfield as that."

• Livonia Franklin may have come of age last week despite a last-second loss to Livonia Stevenson (10-7).

The Patriots showed signs of having another aggressive defensive unit, a trademark of coach Armand Vigna's teams.

• Westland John Glenn has consistently contended for the title, but the Rockets need to eliminate their early-season mistakes, according to Gordon.

Glenn blanked Belleville in its opener (17-0), but fell victim to Western Lakes member Northville last week in the last 13 seconds (14-10).

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Mercy cagers win an ugly one

Winning ugly is a phrase coined by Texas Ranger manager Doug Rader. It means winning without really playing that well.

Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy won ugly Tuesday night against Ann Arbor Huron, 37-35.

"We got off to a real good start and then plodded through for the next two quarters," said Mercy coach Larry Baker. "We played the third quarter with a six point lead. We were not sharp. I was disappointed in our execution, we were just not thinking."

Mercy got another strong game out of Terri Ford. She led all scorers with 18 points and she pulled down six rebounds. Mary Rosowski had 15 points and nine rebounds.

TYPLIFYING MERCY's not-so-spectacular night, was Sarah Basford. The All-Stater, averaging better than 18 points in her previous three games, didn't score a point against Huron. Basford got into early foul trouble and was never a factor in the game.

"It was the worst game I have ever seen her play," said Baker.

Annexie Ruggiero played a strong game also for Mercy, scoring eight points and dishing out five assists. Amy DeMatteis scored nine points and pulled down six rebounds.

"Our execution was bad, our people off the bench are not performing the way I expect them to be, the wrong cuts were being made on the floor, people were playing one defense when they should have been in another, we are supposed to be reducing these kinds of things by the fourth game, not increasing them," Baker said.

Mercy (3-1), rated number one in Class A by several area polls, plays at Utica Eisenhower tonight.

NORTH FARMINGTON 57
CLAWSON 32

North just keeps rolling along. Amy Austin led the way Tuesday night with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Suzanne Howley added 13 and sophomore Laina Shaw came off the bench to score 11.

That, plus a 58 percent shooting pro-

iciency from the floor and a menacing man-to-man defense, more than offset a 20-point performance from Clawson's Lori Quinn.

Austin held Clawson's big gun, Julie Quirk, to just two points.

"We shot well, played mostly man-to-man and played it well," said Raider coach Greg Grodzicki. "I was pleased with our offense and defense."

North built up a 10-point lead at the half and then put the game away with a 19-4 burst in the third quarter.

North is now 3-0.

WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 72
FARMINGTON 42

"I figured once we started playing the tough teams we'd be in trouble," said Farmington coach Bruce Brown. He was right.

Foul trouble early and the sizzling hot shooting of Central throughout led to the rout.

Both Alyse Fortane and Rhonda Lancaster were plagued by foul troubles, though they managed to again lead the team in scoring. Fortune had 11 and Lancaster nine.

With Lancaster and Fortune on the

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JERRY ZOLYNSKY

Sarah Basford

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