

A super year ends in tears for '84 Hawks

Tying up some loose ends while the leaves continue to multiply like rabbits on my front lawn.

MY FRIEND and colleague, C.J. Rtsak, played prophet last week at my expense. "Bad things happen in threes," he said.

On Tuesday night Plymouth Salem's girls basketball team got upended by Livonia Bentley in the Western Lakes playoffs. Salem had trounced Bentley twice during the regular season and I was looking forward to a Salem-Walled Lake Western championship showdown.

On Wednesday night, Farmington Hills Mercy, the No. 1 team in Observerland, got jolted from the Catholic League playoffs by Bishop Gallagher, a team the Marlins had previously destroyed twice.

On Thursday, C.J. reminded me of his prophecy: "Chris, I'm telling you, bad things happen in threes."

NO WAY. The third "bad thing" would have to have been Dearborn Fordson upsetting Farmington Harrison in the state semifinal football game and that just couldn't happen — could it?



Chris McCosky

It could. Take my word, bad things do happen in threes.

I did manage to salvage some joy Saturday. C.J., a Western Michigan graduate, and I, an Eastern Michigan graduate, attended the EMU-WMU football game Saturday night with our wives.

Final score: Eastern 24, Western 14. Bad things come in threes, C.J., you've got two more coming.

As painful as it may be, let's go back to the Harrison-Fordson game for a minute. Because of the lousy playing conditions, there was a lot of grumbling on both sides about what might have happened if the game was played under normal conditions.

Both coaches, Harrison's John Harrington and Fordson's Charlie Justice, felt that games of such statewide importance should be played on artificial

turf. I'm not sure I agree.

Sure, the sloppy conditions detracted from the power of both teams and made for a lower scoring game. But, football is one of the few sports that was designed to be played outdoors, regardless of the weather.

Call me a purist, but the fact that football games are played in the rugged winter is part of the sport's charm. It's a tough sport. And the winner is not always the best football team, but often the toughest, the survivor.

REMEMBER THE old NFL championship game between the Green Bay Packers and the Dallas Cowboys? They played that game in sub-arctic weather conditions. It was minus-15 degrees that day in Green Bay. The field was like a sheet of ice. Yet, the game lives in my memory as one of the finest ever played.

Yes, I would have liked to see Harrison and Fordson play under normal conditions. Personally, I believe that Harrison would have kicked the Tractors' tails on a dry field.

But, the game wasn't played on a dry field. Adjustments had to be made. And the team that adapted to the conditions more quickly was Fordson. That is part of the game, as they say. I don't want to see the natural elements taken away from the game.

The Harrison-Fordson game I saw last Saturday, despite the final score was every bit as dramatic and exciting as the Harrison-Fordson game I saw at the Silverdome in 1982.

Saturday's game produced some electrifying moments, some nail-biting moments, as well as some heart-wrenching moments. It was pure, raw excitement — the kind that only high school sports can induce.

Scott Bissell, just a sophomore at Harrison, ran the gamut of emotions. The cornerback has done a solid job all season in the Hawks' secondary, but on Fordson's third offensive play of the game, he was beaten on a 66-yard touchdown pass.

But, he quickly got even. He picked off a pass in the second quarter that led to the Hawks' only score. Then, in the fourth quarter he made a play that would have rendered him a hero had the game ended in Harrison's favor.

FORDSON'S JOHN Janowicz broke through the Harrison defensive line and was headed for the goal line. He had at least 15 yards on Bissell, the nearest Hawk. But Bissell, with a burst of speed, caught Janowicz at the 14. And the Hawk defense held Fordson.

After the game, Bissell, like most of the Hawks, was in tears. He and his brother, former Hawk Geoff Bissell, embraced near midfield. Geoff was telling his brother to hold his head up, that he had played a good game. Scott nodded in agreement, but the tears wouldn't stop flowing.

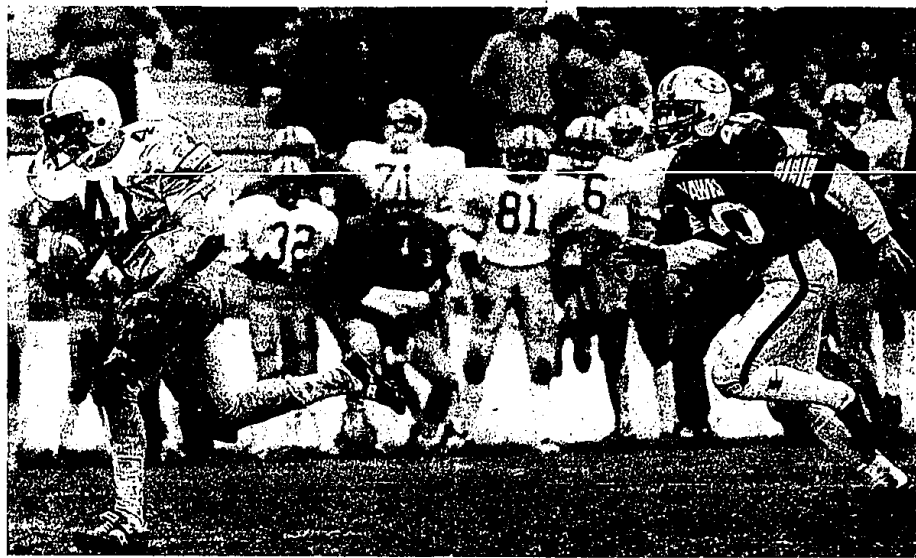
The game featured some big-league hitting, too — during the game and after it.

John Miller put a hit on Fordson's Domenic Tasselli that I won't soon forget. Tasselli tried to go around the right side of the Harrison defense and met Miller head on. Miller stopped him cold. Tasselli was sent spinning on his back in the mud like a breakdancer.

After the game, a Fordson student raced across the field and began tearing down some of the Hawk banners. Two Harrison boosters, presumably students, pounced on the guy and gave him a pretty good whopping before Farmington AD Ron Holland could break it up.

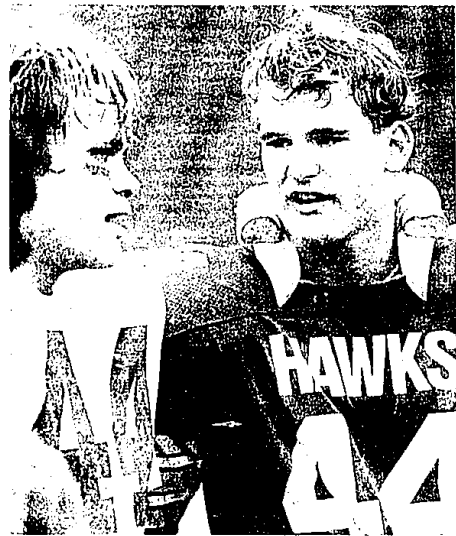
BUT, PERHAPS the most touching sight of all, was that of Miller after the game. His brilliant football career ended in frustration. Yet, while accepting hugs and congratulations from the Fordson players, he held his head high.

Alone, with his friends and family, he broke down and cried. I had no words for John afterward. I had no questions. Just a handshake. I hope he understood that the handshake was meant to express my gratitude for all the thrills he has given me in the two years that I watched him play.



photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer.

Hawk sophomore Scott Bissell chases down Fordson's John Janowicz Saturday. Bissell caught him and saved a TD.



John Miller and Fordson's David Geiss exchange salutations.

Falcon cagers beat Churchill

The Farmington girls basketball team improved its record to 9-11 with a 40-34 victory over Livonia Churchill last Friday in a consolation match in the Western Lakes playoffs.

Alyse Fortune starred both offensively and defensively. She scored a game-high 26 points and was the kingpin in a tenacious Falcon man-to-man defense.

Farmington, behind a strong floor game by Laura Spence (five assists), built up a 12-point halftime lead. But Churchill came roaring back. They tied it up 30-30 in the final quarter, but two key hoops by Patti Mathews kept Farmington in command.

Your kitchen is on fire.
It won't spread!
It won't burn!
It won't explode!
It won't catch fire!
We'll help. Will you?
American Red Cross

March of Dimes
SAVES BABIES
HELP HIGH RISK INFANTS

The Economical Alternative...
RENTAL

We rent downhill and cross-country skis by the

- Week
- Weekend
- Season

Don Thomas Sporthaus
10000 WOODBURN PLAZA
MUSKEGON, MI 48068
Daily 10-9, Sat. 9:30-5:30, Sun. 12-5

NEW LOW PRICES ON ATARI

Hardware, software and third party accessories.
Savings up to 30%
(over prices in effect on Sept. 1, 1984)

Save on Printers, Disk Drives, Games and various Software at Detroit's largest place!

The Family Computer Center
at The Dole Hospital & Toy Soldier Shop
3895 W. 12 Mile, Berkley (4 Bks. E. of Greenfield)
543-0520 Mon.-Fri. 10-7; Sat. 10-5; Sun. 1-5

PMS
AFFECTS FAMILIES, TOO!
FREE COUNSELING Services for Premenstrual Syndrome

Guest Speaker:
EDWARD LICHEN, M.D.
Gynecologist-Gynecologist
Director, Premenstrual Treatment Center & Clinic for Women

• Depression • Mood Swings • Headaches
are medical manifestations of premenstrual syndrome

DATE	CITY	LOCATION
November 27	Southfield	4000 Prudential Town Ctr., Rm. 50
November 28	Southfield	4000 Prudential Town Ctr., Rm. 50
November 29	Harper Woods	Community Ctr.
December 1	Garden City	High School
December 4	Farmington	O.C.C. Room 2-264
December 8	Troy	Hilton at Stephenson Hwy.
December 10	Livonia	Senior Citizen Facility
December 11	Berkley	Public Library

All Times: 7:30 P.M.
For Medical Information, brochures and Registration,
Call: (313) 358-4357
SPONSORED BY AREA P.M.S. GROUPS

TEACHING KIDS TO
SKI
ought to be fun!

- Ages 7 to 17
- 10 Saturdays, weather permitting
- Supervised bus transportation
- Small, personalized classes
- Certified Ski School
- Lodge supervision

ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN
CALL 626-9500 for information

MOUNTAINEER SKI SCHOOL
SINCE 1969
6600 Telegraph at Maple • Birmingham

EVEN SANTA KNOWS WHERE TO GET POPCORN GIFT BOXES AND TINS
10% OFF
WITH THIS AD
THRU DEC. 31, 1984
DETROIT POPCORN CO.
12685 TELEGRAPH RD.
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48239
(313) 531-9200

NORTHWEST BLUE PRINT'S NOW THRU DEC.
CHAIR BLITZ
NEW & USED
HIGH & LOW DRAFTING & OFFICE CHAIRS
STARTING AT \$65.00
DRAFTING STOOLS AS LOW AS \$19.99
MUST SELL!
(need space badly)

The Art of Drafting Superstores
SERVING SELECTION-VALUE-DELIVERY

- WESTSIDE — 13450 Farmington Rd. (So. of Schoolcraft) Livonia • 525-1990
- EASTSIDE — 31710 Mound Rd. (So. of Chicago Rd.) Warren • 977-8330
- PONTIAC — Archer Blue Print 3127 West Huron St. Pontiac • 681-2400
- GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Rany Day Company 20507 Mack Ave. So. of 8 mile (Warren) • 681-6305

Store Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 8:30 to 5:30, Thursday 8:30 to 8:00 & Sat. 9:30 to 2:30