

Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editors/591-2312



(P1B)



GARY CASKEY/staff photographer

Rodney Hurst leaps high over Farmington defender Eric Green to haul in his second TD pass of the game to lead Southfield's 32-0 victory.

The revenge of the Jays

By Marty Budner
staff writer

third-year coach Cal Fletcher the most?

Nope.

IT WAS THE stingy defense that not only kept Farmington from reaching the end zone but which allowed only 75 total yards. The Falcon rushing attack, considered a team strength because of their huge linemen, never got untracked and logged a mere 50 yards. Junior halfback Eric Green was the leading rusher with 17 yards.

"Defensively we had something to prove," said Fletcher, whose Blue Jays are considered one of the metro area's top teams this season. "Defense was our big question mark this season."

(Monroe) Curry must have been in three of every four tackles. They just couldn't block him. The linemen and linebackers played real well and our defensive backfield has come a long way.

"Plus, we wanted to be in good shape for this game. We made up our minds that it was going to be hot and we prepared the kids by loading them up with water the last few days," he said. "I don't think it was a fluke that we beat them. Farmington is a good team."

Southfield started slowly, but showed its explosiveness by scoring on a 69-yard pass play from quarterback J. Jewett to Hurst midway through the second quarter. Jewett missed the point-after kick and Southfield led 6-0.

The Blue Jays hiked the margin to 12-0 by halftime on another Jewett-to-Hurst hook-up from 29 yards out with 23 seconds left in the second quarter. The score was set up by Ken Browner's interception of a Joe Bob Wenson pass.

DORN TOOK command in the second half. The pre-season All-American ran for touchdowns from 35 and five yards away, threw a halfback-option pass to Rob Griffin for another touchdown and scored on an 82-yard third-quarter punt return.

Dorn accounted for 115 yards rushing and more than 100 yards in punt returns. He also had a touchdown called back because of a penalty and overthrew two wide-open receivers on halfback-option passes at other times during the game.

"You just can't let Torin Dorn run upfield and we knew that," said Farmington coach Don Quirk. "But we weren't just concentrating on him be-

cause we knew they have good receivers. We had people supposed to be there on those touchdown passes, but the receivers just beat them to the ball."

"The heat just killed us. We couldn't go four plays without total exhaustion and they didn't seem to be bothered at all. We're a much better team than what we showed. . . . We just made some costly mistakes."

"Southfield played a fine game and showed why they deserve a top ranking," he said.

Jewett, a senior, completed five of 10 passes for 130 yards and two touchdowns. Southfield's Sean Washington also had an interception.

Wenson, who left the game early in the third quarter because of an injury to his right ankle, completed five of 11 passes for 33 yards and one interception. Jim Howell took Wenson's spot and failed to complete a pass.

Southfield backs defending Southeastern Michigan Association (SMA) champion Birmingham Seaholm Saturday afternoon at home in what promises to be a very big game. Farmington hosts Harrison at 1 p.m. Saturday.

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

The way the North Farmington defense manhandled Plymouth Canton Saturday, you'd have thought it had studied the Chiefs' play book.

North Farmington, en route to a 23-0 win in their home opener, checked the Chiefs on negative 29 yards rushing and held them to 19 yards total offense — two first downs were all Canton could muster.

"We knew their slants offensively," said North defensive coordinator Mark Babcock. "They were bigger than us up front, so we didn't want to attack them straight on. We knew where the holes were in the line."

Indeed, time and again North defenders bolted through the Canton line untouched. Canton quarterback Tony Aiken was knocked out of the game in the second quarter. He was sacked four times and pulled a leg muscle on the last one. He is expected to return next week.

"I WAS very disappointed in our offense today," said Canton coach Richard Barr. "We just weren't blocking. We have to get back to the basics. We have a lot of work to do offensively."

The game started poorly and got worse for the Chiefs. Aiken, on the first offensive play from scrimmage, fumbled the snap and North's Jay Sturt fell on it at the Canton 20.

That led to a 22-yard field goal by Mike Rudin.

North added to its 3-0 lead in the second quarter when 215-pound fullback Steve Goss burst through the line and rammed 33 yards for the score.

Goss, who sat out half the game with a shoulder bruise, gained 54 yards in seven carries.

His backfield partner, speedy Marc Brown, made the spectacular play of the day. His 19-yard TD run late in the second half brought the large North crowd to their feet. He dived-dodged his way through the Canton line then hurdled a linebacker before sprinting into the end zone.

Brown finished the day with 70 yards rushing.

THE NORTH defense closed out the scoring in the second half when Rudin picked off a Tony Boucher pass and ran it in from 18 yards out.

The game wasn't totally satisfying to North head coach Jim O'Leary. "The defense did a great job and that was our big question mark coming into the season," the third-year coach said. "But offensively we made too many crucial mistakes. We moved the ball

well enough but we'd break down. It cost us some points."

Part of the problem was Canton's defense which played a strong game.

"I thought our defense played a good game considering the poor field position we had all day and the mistakes that were made," Barr said.

Leading the defensive effort for Canton was junior Jeff Krolicki (five unassisted tackles and one fumble recovery) and Dan Olaszewski.

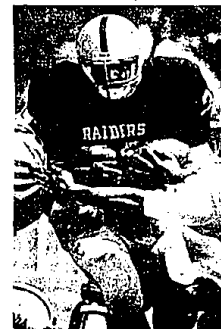
THE DEFENSIVE stars for North? Everyone. Rudin was exceptional. He picked off two passes and covered the secondary like a blanket. Corky D'Ascenzo also picked off a pass for North. Derek Cribble and Brian Haack put constant pressure on the Canton line.

"Coach Babcock did a nice job preparing the defense for this game," O'Leary said. "You know, people always say Bob Sutter (Farmington Harrison assistant) is a great coach, and he is. But I think Mark does a great job, too."

The bizarre play of the day, and a tell-tale play for Canton, occurred in the final quarter. Olaszewski blocked a North punt, but the ball deflected to Raider back Scott Selzer who advanced it for a first down.

The lone offensive highlight for Canton was a 37-yard pass from Boucher to Dan Haavala. But, two incomplete a sack later, Canton was out of striking range.

It was that type of day for the Chiefs.



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Steve Goss busts loose for a 31-yard TD romp.

Hawks zip Lakers

Like they say, the names change but

the results stay the same. The Farmington Harrison opened its 1985 football campaign the same as it has the past three years, with a win over West Bloomfield — 28-0 in front of a large, sun-baked Harrison crowd. Brian Smolinski opened the scoring.

hailing in a 20-yard pass from senior

quarterback Mike Mar. The Hawks broke it open in the second quarter. John Loope scored on a two-yard run and Scott Bissell on a nine-yard run.

Mack closed out the scoring in the third quarter with a 15-yard run.

Maison's hot hand lifts Mercy; losses spoil 2 coaching debuts

How's this for irony: Yvette Maison, the junior transfer student from Bishop Galiano who until Sept. 2 didn't even know if she would be eligible to play, led the Farmington Hills Mercy girls basketball team to an 80-34 victory at Temperance-Bedford Thursday night.

Maison, whose family is contesting the Michigan High School Athletic Association's rule on transfer eligibility in Oakland County Circuit Court, scored 22 points and dished out six assists to pace the Marlies.

"It was an awful long way to travel for not really much of a test," said Mercy coach Larry Baker. Temperance, by the way, is the last exit before the Ohio border on southbound I-75.

Terri Ford, ranked among the top players in the state by the Detroit Free Press and the Great Lakes Scouting Bureau, scored 15 points and pulled down 14 rebounds for Mercy.

Sophomore Jan Herberholz, starting in place of injured Michelle Fryatt, contributed 14 points. Marga-

ret DeMatilla and Missy Duczynski each scored nine.

N. FARMINGTON 50, NOVI 38: This was a typical season opener. The nerves were a bit frayed, the shots a bit off the mark. But, North Farmington survived.

"The turnovers were high, we were jittery," said North coach Greg Grodzki. "We didn't have any stars just a good balanced team effort."

Heather McPhillips led the way with 12 points and Suzi Butcher added eight. Ten other Raiders figured in the scoring.

Lisa McCarthy led Novi (0-3) with 18 points.

REDFORD UNION 37, FARMINGTON 31: Marie Becker ruled Diana Schwartz's coaching debut. The RU senior scored 22 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead the Panthers past host Farmington Thursday.

"We pressed well and forced a lot of turnovers (30)," said Schwartz. "But, we made a lot of turnovers, too. We'd make a steal and then throw the ball away."

Farmington also had a problem flinging the net. The Falcons made just nine of 51 shots from the floor. Becky Philip scored nine points and Kelli Koss and Patti Matthews each scored six.

LAKELAND 57, HARRISON 23: Another coaching debut spoiled.

Chris Lessnau saw his Farmington Harrison team hang tough for the better part of three quarters only to suffer a 16-1 blitz in the final eight minutes.

Jennifer Hughes scored 11 to lead the Hawks. Marie Chalagians added eight.

Paula Hayes scored 22 for Millford Lakeland.

LUTHERAN N.W. 62, LUTHERAN WEST 43: A first for Farmington Lutheran Northwest girls basketball. The team had never experienced victory against Lutheran West until Thursday.

Julie Mueller led the way with 23 points. Stephanie Graff added 13 and Heidi Abraham 10 for the winners.

Salem cagers go stone cold; Ladywood romps to victory

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

For all its fancy defenses, its intricate offenses, its alley-oops and shake-and-bakes, basketball is a simple game. The team that puts the ball into the basket the most times wins.

Livonia Ladywood put the ball into the hoop much more consistently than Plymouth Salem Thursday night, and as a result carried away a convincing 61-41 victory in first round play of the Great Lakes Trip Girls Basketball Tournament at U-M Dearborn.

In the other first round game, Dearborn Divine Child held off Detroit St. Martin DePorres 51-50. DO and Ladywood will play for the championship Saturday at 8 p.m. Salem and DePorres will precede that game at 6 p.m.

(Championship and consolation results will appear in Thursday's Observer sports sections.)

WITH FOUR minutes remaining in the third quarter, Salem trailed Ladywood by only 4 basket, 37-35. But in

the next nine minutes, the Rocks would miss 14 consecutive shots without grabbing an offensive rebound.

Ladywood, as a result, ran off a 16-1 spurt to put the game out of reach.

"I thought our press forced them to do what we wanted, that is to shoot quick," said Ladywood coach Ed Kavanaugh. "We felt that Salem was a set-up type team. If we pressed, we felt they would take wild shots."

The game got away from Salem in a matter of minutes. With the Blazers ahead 41-35 as the final seconds ticked off in the third quarter, Ladywood's Mary Joy Konecal followed up a pair of missed shots with bucket at the buzzer (43-35).

Then Cathy Schram, who played a solid game for the Blazers, opened the final period with a three-point play that sent the Rocks reeling.

Salem made a nice run at us in the third quarter," Kavanaugh said. "But our kids held them off. I was very concerned at that point. Hey, Salem is a fine basketball team. We had to play pretty good to beat a team like that."

SENIOR CENTER Sue Lalberta led all scorers with 20 points (10 of 13 from the free throw line). Guard Jen-Nadeau scored 13 and Schram 12.

Salem coach Fred Thomann, though not pleased with the final score, was not totally displeased with his team's effort.

"We found out how to play this game tonight," Thomann said. "We're a young team with only one starter back from last year. They've never faced that type of pressure for 33 minutes. Ladywood is a very, very good team and so are we."

Of the frigid shooting, Thomann said, "We have been accused in the past of not shooting the ball enough. Tonight, we wanted to come out and shoot. We took a lot of first opportunity shots and that's OK. We want to find out if we can score."

The Rocks, who wound up hitting 17 of 53 shots (3 of 21 in the final quarter), got 10 points and 15 rebounds from sophomore Dena Head and another 10 points from Leslie Flichta.