

Must-win game set for Harrison

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Livonia Churchill football coach Herb Osterland made an interesting observation Monday.

"You know, the Western Lakes seems to be a defensive conference," he said. "Every team has a pretty good defense. Nobody has an offense that has just gone crazy and scored a lot of points."

One has only to look at some recent scores to find proof of his assertion: John Glenn 7, North Farmington 0, in overtime; Livonia Franklin 9, Farmington Harrison 7; Churchill 9, Plymouth Canton 6; North 7, Livonia Stevenson 6; Walled Lake Western 6, Canton 0, etc.

The Western Lakes is more or less the black and blue conference of Michigan high school football.

In that vein, we bring you the black and blue Game of the Week — Churchill at Harrison on Saturday afternoon.

THIS GAME has serious ramifications in the Western Lakes Western Division. Churchill, 2-0, is tied for the division lead with Western. Harrison is 1-1 within the division.

"We kind of feel like we're back in it," said Harrison coach John Herrington. "We have a chance to win it or lose it ourselves. We didn't know if that would be the case after losing to Franklin."

Harrison plays Western on Oct. 18. But a close division race isn't necessary to fire up this rivalry. Since 1970, the two teams have battled 14 times, and Harrison has won eight. Most of the games were decided by seven or fewer points.

"It's always a great game when we play Churchill," Herrington said.

What type of game will it be? Both teams have been solid defensively and inconsistent offensively.

HARRISON'S DEFENSE has only given up one TD this season. Only Plymouth Salem has scored more than one TD against Churchill in one game. Conversely, both teams have struggled offensively. Mistakes, turnovers and penalties have been the major nemesis for both teams.

Seventy points were scored in last year's Harrison-Churchill battle. The defense took the night off. This year, the defense will rule.

"The whole thing scares me," Osterland said. "What's scary is the unpredictability of the teams, including ourselves. You can't be too sure what's going to happen. I guess it's going to come down to who gets things together at the right time."

It may also come down to who on Churchill can play with Harrison receiver Brian Smolinski.

PICKS — Churchill doesn't score. Hawks soar, says Chris McCosky and Brad Emmons.

FRIDAY GAMES
LIVONIA FRANKLIN at **PLYMOUTH CANTON** (7:30 p.m.) — Which Franklin team will show up Friday, the Patriots or the Patriots? It was the Patriots who defeated Harrison two weeks ago. The Patriots showed up last week and lost to Western. Canton's defense has been coming up with every game, but the Chiefs still haven't discovered how to score points.

PICKS — Franklin is now in a must-win situation, while the Chiefs are playing out the string. Take the Patriots.

JOHN GLENN at **LIVONIA STEVENSON** (7:30 p.m.) — Glenn, coming off a victory against North Farmington last week, would be well-advised not to take Stevenson lightly. Stevenson, though 1-3 and minus the services of back Don Rioschacki, will give Glenn's one-dimensional attack a stiff test.

PICKS — But a stiff test does not translate into victory. Glenn stays unbeaten.



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REDFORD UNION at **GARDEN CITY** (7:30 p.m.) — RU coach Jim Gibbons jokingly referred to this game as "a gift for the league title. Truth is, RU and Garden City are independent of a league structure this season and will join a new Northwest Suburban League next. Nevertheless, the game won't lack for intensity. It's Garden City's homecoming.

PICKS — Redford Union stays on its roll.

BELLEVEUE at **WAYNE MEMORIAL** (7:30 p.m.) — These two teams are struggling badly. Wayne, clobbered last week by Fordson, 37-7, isn't that bad a team. Bellevue may be just the tonic the Zobras need to regain their confidence.

PICKS — Unanimous assessment, Wayne wins.

LUTHERAN NORTH at **CLARENCEVILLE** (7:30 p.m.) — Try to figure Clarenceville. The Trojans beat a Hamtramck team one week, then lost to winless Lutheran West the next. The Trojans are making turnovers with a frequency that would make Betty Crocker jealous.

PICKS — Figures, North wins.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL vs. **GALLAGHER** (7:30 p.m.) at St. Clair Shores South Lake — Hugo Catholic League test for unbeaten CC. Bishop Gallagher came within a muffed punt of beating highly touted DeLaSalle last week. CC sophomore Perry Chanoy has come out of the woodwork to lend a dimension of speed and power to the Shamrock attack.

PICKS — CC stays in the title chase.

SATURDAY GAMES

PLYMOUTH SALEM at **FARMINGTON** (1 p.m.) — Both teams notched victory No. 1 of the season last week and both did so impressively. Key factor: Farmington has the size and the depth, but can it cope with Salem's speed? Farmington quarterback Joe Bob Wenson had a big day against Central last week. He'll need another. Similarly, the Rocks will need repeat performances from Paul Makana and Brian Tiller, as well as some improved line play. Both teams rely heavily on the big play. Good matchup.

PICKS — Finally, a disagreement. Emmons picks Salem. McCosky tosses a coin and it lands Farmington side up.

W.L. CENTRAL at **NORTH FARMINGTON** (1 p.m.) — Two bruised and battered teams with somewhat deflated egos. Central lost its first of the season to previously winless Farmington. North played its heart out against Glenn only to fall in OT. North lost more than the game; it lost standout back Marc Brown with a wrist injury. Still, neither team is out of contention for the Lakes Division crown.

PICKS — North wins.

REDFORD THURSTON at **CHERRY HILL** (1:30 p.m.) — The battle for the Tri-River League basement. Thurston seems to play well one week and poorly the next. The good news is, they played poorly last week.

PICKS — Go with the Observant team. Thurston wins.

BORGESS VS. NOTRE DAME (2 p.m. at Garden City Junior High) — Both teams were clubbed by perennial Catholic League powers last week. Bishop Borgess by CC and Notre Dame by Brother Rice. Borgess has been lacking offensively, both in imagination and execution. Opponents haven't had to work too hard to stop them.

PICKS — Emmons and McCosky take Notre Dame.

ST. AGATHA vs. **MT. CARMEL** (7:30 p.m. at St. Agatha Field) — The Aggies lost the Catholic League C-D Division on its last Sunday with a 10-0 victory against previously unbeaten Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard. Wyandotte Mount Carmel took a beating from Pontiac Catholic. Are the Aggies for real? Stay tuned.

PICKS — Go St. Agatha.

McCosky and Emmons were both 9-4 last week. McCosky is 40-14 on the season. Emmons is 35-19.

Never throw away old notes

NOW AND THEN I like to go back through my old notes. You never know what you might find.

For example: During a closely contested Plymouth Canton-Livonia Churchill girls junior varsity basketball game, Canton coach Bob Blohm got a little excited.

(Blohm had coached in the Plymouth Salem program for 10 years prior to this season, including a five-year stint as the Rocks' head girls coach.)

Blohm, as his young team desperately clung to a two-point lead, raced over to the scorer's table.

"How many timeouts does Salem have?" he asked.

When he realized what he'd said, his face turned Canton-red.

Quipped Canton head coach Rob Neuf, a former pupil of Blohm's and coaching his first varsity team: "Bob's coming along real good. He's learning the game. I think he's going to be OK."

Uh-huh. Blohm's JV team has yet to lose a game this season.

MORE GIRLS hopes notes: Terri Ford, Farmington Hills Mercy stand-out, has been outstanding this season.

In a very quiet manner. After Mercy lost to River Rouge, people were asking coach Larry Baker if he was disappointed in Ford's game.

Terri did exactly what we asked her to do, Baker said that night. "Her role was to occupy Franthia (Price) and crash the boards. People look at her points (four) and say she played bad. I look at her boards (14) and say she played well."

If Baker needs Ford to score, Ford will do her best to score. If she is needed to play defense and rebound, she'll get that done. No complaints. Terri Ford has matured into a solid, all-around basketball player.

Canton vs. Ladywood at Schoolcraft Tuesday, Oct. 15 — can't wait.

Wait! Which one do I go to? What rascal scheduled these two beauties on the same night?

I wrote something after the Mercy-Saginaw game, but I can't quite read it. Something about Mercy No. 52. Oh, it says "Mercy, I like the way No. 52 plays this game."

No. 52 on your program, No. 1 on the boards: Missy Duczynski.

THIS NOTEBOOK has prep tennis written all over it.

Wendy Gilles, a nationally ranked amateur tennis player, has hardly broken a sweat on the high school nets so far this fall. In 10 matches, the Salem senior has lost but five games.

If you total her games, her record is 120-5.

Things will get tougher for Gilles in a couple weeks when the prep teams begin state tournament play.

Speaking of that, keep an eye on both Plymouth Salem and Plymouth Canton during the state tourney. Salem is currently undefeated, and Canton's lone loss was at the hands of the Rocks.

One more tennis note found among the sheaves: Kelly Davidson, who enjoyed great success while playing No. 1 singles at Farmington Harrison, is the No. 4 singles player at the University of Alabama.

What's this? "I'm glad more public teams are challenging the non-public teams."

THIS YEAR, Salem has challenged Mercy, Ladywood and DePores in girls basketball. The Canton soccer team has challenged Catholic Central. The Farmington boys cross country team made no secret that their No. 1 target at the Hazlett Invitational was CC.



Chris McCosky

This is tremendous. The only way to stop all the bickering and feuding between the two entities is to put on the gloves and battle — on the playing field.

Maybe (but I doubt it) the swim teams will take heed. Wouldn't it be great to see North Farmington swim Mercy so we can tell who is truly No. 1 in the city? Or, what about Livonia Stevenson vs. Mercy? Well, maybe not this year.

Geez, don't I have any football notes around here? Oh, here's a whole bunch on Bob Wasczenski. Well, I'd better not print these. My mother once said if you can't say something nice about someone, shut your mouth.

Let me just make an comment on Wasczenski. When your athlete days are over and you get a job, you aren't going to be able to just up and transfer to another job if something goes bad one day.

HERE'S A happy note. Mark Mecklenborg, the injured Harrison senior, may return before the end of the season. He won't be able to play half-back, but he could kick.

What's all this? From the Salem-Stevenson football game: "Nice block, No. 24." "Nice block, No. 24." "Great hit, No. 24."

No. 24 on your Plymouth Salem program and No. 1 on your defense demolition team, Joe Jouppli. The young man turned Salem's wishbone offense into high gear against Stevenson.

Here's a note regarding the Plymouth Canton football team: "Wonder what the record is for most off-tackle plays attempted in one four-quarter football game?" Whatever it is, the Chiefs own it.

Wonder what this means? "Wish Don Kulak (Farmington head coach) and Forrest Geary (assistant coach) would get together and decide who's running the team."

The Falcon players seem mighty confused.

One last note, this one jotted down by my colleague Brad Emmons: "Do you know why the Observant football team is having trouble scoring points? Because all the halfbacks are playing soccer."

Chargers blank inoffensive Falcons

Livonia Churchill took away the middle in a 3-0 Western Lakes boys soccer victory Tuesday over host Farmington.

The win upped Churchill's overall record 6-2-1, while Farmington slipped to 3-5-1.

Churchill scored all three of its goals in the first half — Chris Spen from Tim Jackson, 9:13; Brad Mase from Brett Murphy, 24:06; and Jim Chendes from Terin Gilewski, 31:50.

"We really controlled the midfield," said Churchill coach John Neff. "Both sets of midfielders played well."

Churchill held the edge in shots, 29-22, as goalie Ted Lukiewski posted the shutout.

"We had plenty of chances, we just couldn't put it in," said Farmington coach Ed Bartram.

PICKS — Go St. Agatha.

STEVENSON 5, **NORTVILLE** 0: Livonia Stevenson (9-0-2) continued its winning ways, posting its ninth shutout of the year Tuesday in a Western Lakes win at Northville.

Spartan goal scorers included Jim Kimble, Steve Karla, John Mikkelsen, Kevin Kurkowski and Christian Amborg.

"They all played well, but Mikkelsen was all over the field," said Stevenson coach Pete Scerri, whose team has outscored the opposition this year 47-3.

N. FARMINGTON 4, **FRANKLIN** 0: Four different players scored Tuesday as host North Farmington (3-5-1) blanked visiting Livonia Franklin (3-4-1).

Karsten Petton, Jeff Juliano, Darrel Krause and Monty Najar scored for the winners. Zac Beim added two assists.

"We played very well at midfield," said North coach Cathy Cole, whose team outshot the Patriots, 22-10.

Goalies Dennis McCarthy and Fred Menko combined for the shutout.

CANTON 4, **HARRISON** 2: Plymouth Canton (8-3) won a Western Lakes encounter Tuesday at Farmington Harrison behind Steve Rudelle's two goals.

The Chiefs led 2-0 at halftime on goals by Rudelle (from Pat Frederick) and Bryan Whiteley (on Steve Morelli's free kick).

Harrison cut the margin to 2-1 just 17 minutes in the second half, but Rudelle struck again a minute later from Morelli.

Harrison once again made a game of it, scoring at the 16-minute mark, but Canton came away on Frederick's goal from Whiteley.

"Harrison played five defenders to try to shut us down," said Canton coach Mike Morgan. "It messed up their coordination."

SPRINGFIELD 3, **PLY. CHRISTIAN** 2: Dave Presley's two goals were not enough Tuesday as Springfield Christian edged visiting Plymouth Christian, which suffered its first defeat.

Mike Presley notched the game-winner for Springfield. Jim Adams had the other two Springfield goals.

Presley now has 14 on the season.

LUTHERAN NW 1, **LUTHERAN EAST** 0: Matt Mai's first half goal couldn't stand up Tuesday as Farmington Lutheran Northwest tied Harper Woods Lutheran East.

The loss dropped Northwest to 2-4-2 overall.

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