

Sports

Chris McCoosky, Brad Emons editors/591-2312



Monday, October 6, 1986 O&E

(F)18

Hawks stagger Churchill bid once again, 21-7

By Chris McCoosky
staff writer

Livonia Churchill has to be getting a little sick of this.

The last three years Churchill has taken an undefeated divisional record (undefeated overall the last two seasons) into its Western Division showdown with Farmington Harrison. Harrison has come away victorious each year.

On Friday, in the mud at Churchill, Farmington Harrison used three sudden strikes and one heavy-footed punter to subdue Churchill 21-7.

Harrison has won the Western Division title since the inception of the Western Lakes in 1982. Many observers felt the outcome of Friday's game would determine the Western Division champion this season. Neither coach agreed.

"We did not tell our kids that this was a championship game," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "We told them that Churchill was our oldest and toughest rival and we would need a strong effort to beat them. They lead their region in points so you know they've played some good opponents."

Said Churchill coach Herb Osterland: "No way does this decide it. We are going to have to come back next week against a good Walled Lake Western team. It's a balance of league. If you can't handle one loss you've got a real problem."

HARRISON HIT Churchill with a flurry at the outset of the game. On their third offensive play, Hawk's quarterback Mark Murray and split end Mark Schmidt connected on a perfectly executed 65-yard touchdown pass.

A kickoff and two plays later, Harrison's Kurt Davis picked off a John Tracy pass and advanced it to the Charger 18. On third-and-2 from the 10, Murray hit Dave Krolleick in the end zone.

Mark Calvaruso added both extra points and Harrison led 14-0 seven minutes into the game.

But Churchill didn't fold. In fact, they took control of the game. With 4:01 left in the first half, Tracy hit

football

John Knittel with a 15-yard TD pass to cap a 28-yard drive. Knittel added the extra point.

Three clutch punts by Schmidt, one a 50-yarder, kept Churchill away from the goal the rest of the half. "I felt real good about things at halftime," Osterland said. "I felt like if we could have gotten a break or something and driven in for a score, we would have been able to take control. Instead, . . ."

Instead, on Harrison's first possession of the second half, Scott Bissell busted up the middle a romped 52 yards for a back-breaking touch down.

FOUR TIMES in the final two quarters, Churchill drove inside Harrison territory. Four times the Hawks' defense rejected them. Early in the fourth quarter, the Chargers recovered a fumble at the Harrison 20. The Chargers didn't pick up a first down.

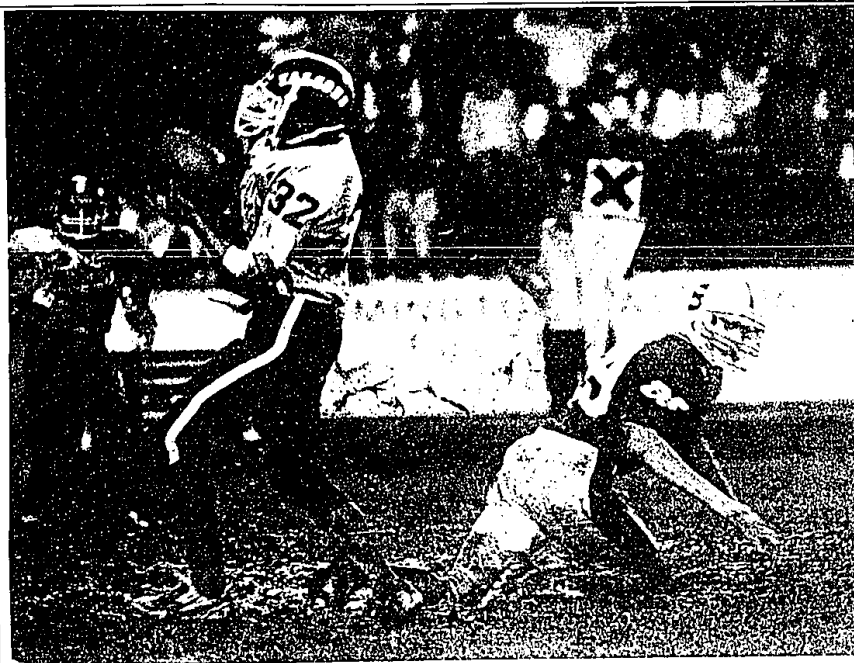
Four times in the final two quarters, Schmidt had to punt out of the mud from deep inside his own territory. All four times Churchill applied considerable pressure. Schmidt's punts were of 44, 39, 49 and 30 yards. "Their punter was outstanding," Osterland said.

Harrison's defense wasn't too bad either, limiting Churchill to just 109 total yards (59 rushing and 50 passing). They sacked the quarterback five times.

Harrison gained just 126 total yards. Bissell finished with 81 yards rushing in 18 carries.

"Playing in this bad for football," Herrington said of the muddy conditions. "There were two good football teams out here and they deserved better. But both played nearly errorless football considering the conditions."

The Hawks are 3-0 in the league, 4-1 overall. Churchill is 2-1, 4-1.



Joe Johnston (No. 32) picked off this Plymouth Salem pass to set up the winning TD for Farmington in its 6-0 triumph Friday night.

Falcons post 2nd shutout

Plymouth Salem football coach Tom Moshimer knew what it would take to win Friday's game with Farmington.

"Whoever got the break was going to win the game," he said. "We knew it was going to be decided that way."

Unfortunately for Moshimer's Rocks, it was Farmington that got the break. The Falcons' Joe Johnston created the only real scoring opportunity in the game for either team by stealing a Salem pass and returning it 50 yards to the Rock 11 in the third quarter.

Several plays later, Eric Green dived in from 2 yards out on a fourth-down-and-one play, and the Falcon defense did the rest in a 6-0 victory at Salem's CEP field.

The win kept Farmington in the race for the Western Lakes Activities Association (WLAA) Lakes Division title. The Falcons are 2-1 and tied with Livonia Stevenson, Westland John Glenn and North Farmington. Farmington is now 2-3 overall and riding a two-game winning streak.

For Salem, the loss ended any hopes of winning the Lakes Division title. They are now 1-4 overall and 1-2 in the division.

Salem had three good scoring opportunities in Friday's game, and all three ended with mistakes. A fumble killed one drive; Johnston's theft of Steve Holt's pass stopped another; and the third finished with a penalty that negated Leonard Bowe's 50-yard run to the Farmington 14.

Any hopes for establishing some kind of offensive consistency for either squad were thwarted by the weather. "Our field was unbelievable," said Moshimer after days of rain flooded the field. "It was like a pond out there."

Salem's offense was more pro-

ductive — in yardage — than Farmington's. The Rocks gained 127 yards rushing and 11 passing. Holt was three of seven for 11 yards, with one interception, and Jerry Sumner rushed for 52 yards on five attempts.

Farmington got 34 yards passing and 43 rushing, with quarterback Drew MacDougall completing three to six for 34 yards and one interception.

N. FARMINGTON 23, W.L. CENTRAL 12: Scott Selzer blasted for three first-half touchdowns as North Farmington rolled to a 27-0 halftime lead and coasted to an easy victory at Walled Lake Central Friday.

North is now one of four teams at 2-1 in the WLAA's Lakes Division. And that pleases coach Jim O'Leary.

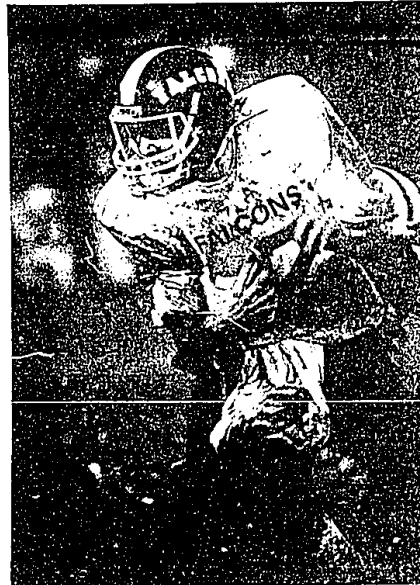
"That leaves us in pretty good shape, according to the playoff format," he said. "Let me put it this way: If everyone wins the rest of the way, we'd win it."

According to the WLAA playoff system, a tie for first by more than two teams is broken by combining opponents' records. And so far, North has played the toughest schedule.

Central wasn't one of those tough ones. The Vikings actually out-gained North, 183 yards to 152, but those figures were deceptive. As O'Leary said, "Statistics are for losers."

The Raiders capitalized on four interceptions — by Joe Sturtz, Andy Avery, Matt Suchecki and Craig Barany — and a fumble recovery. The also got a solid, two-quarter performance from Selzer, who gained 87 yards on 15 attempts and scored on runs of 7, 2 and 3 yards.

The team didn't really need him



Drew MacDougall, Farmington quarterback, slogs through muck at Plymouth Salem Friday night.

after that. His first half TDs, combined with Matt Suchecki's 70-yard punt return in the second quarter, put North in command. Quarter-

back Scott Simon hit five of seven passes for 25 yards. The only other Raider points came on a fourth-quarter safety.

Rocks crush North; Hawks, Falcons fall

By Chris McCoosky
staff writer

What the North Farmington girls basketball team had to do if it was going to upset Observerland's No. 1-ranked Plymouth Salem Thursday night was play a perfect game.

North Farmington, alas, did not play a perfect game. Salem won 58-24.

"What can I say? They are just a great basketball team," said North coach Greg Capling. "I thought we played hard, we just missed a lot of easy shots. But we do that every game. And let's face it, they play great defense."

North Farmington trailed 14-4 after one quarter. In that quarter, the Raiders missed four of the six shots they took — three of them were layups. They also made eight turnovers in the quarter (20 in the game).

From that point, Salem proceeded to run North out of its own gym.

"Against Salem, you cannot afford to miss those kinds of shots," Capling said. "You have to take advantage of every opportunity. If you don't, you're in trouble."

TO SALEM'S credit, it didn't take the Raiders for granted. The Rocks played their usual brand of in-your-face man-to-man defense and pressed the Raiders full court for the better part of three quarters. "I really liked the way our kids worked through this game," Salem coach Fred Thomann said. "We didn't screw around with it. We got control of the game, and we kept it going."

Dena Head led the Salem scoring with 19 points. She also pulled down eight rebounds. Jessica Handley had her perimeter game in order, pumping in 18 points from long-range. Sophomore Jill Estey added eight points and six assists to the cause.

girls basketball

For North (2-4 in the Western Lakes, 3-5 overall), Robyn Weatherford scored eight points.

Salem unbeaten in the league (6-0) and 8-1 on the season.

CANTON 64, HARRISON 2: That's no typo. Winless Farmington Harrison scored its only basket midway through the second quarter.

Tory Barger (14 points) and Penny Piggott (10) led Plymouth Canton. The Chiefs are 4-2 in the Western Lakes, 5-4 overall.

STEVENSON 64, FARMINGTON 45: Livonia Stevenson's pressing defense debilitated Farmington Thursday and helped the Spartans win their first Western Lakes game.

Sue Zatorski led the Spartans with 18 points. Denise Vincent added 12.

Stacy Swanderski scored 21 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for Farmington (0-6, 0-9). Becky Philip scored 14 points and pulled down 12 rebounds. Karen Jenkins grabbed nine rebounds.

Stevenson is 3-6 overall.

MERCY 67, BORGESS 23: Senior guard Vette Malson exploded for 28 points and found time to dish out eight assists Thursday to lead Farmington Hills Mercy in this Catholic League contest.

Jennifer Slosar added 10 points.

Mercy is 1-1 in the Catholic League, 5-3 overall. Bishop Borgess falls to 0-2, 2-5.

Superior talent took a back seat to the weather last week in soccer games played throughout Observerland, thanks to monsoon-like rains.

Not that the better teams didn't win. But with field conditions ranging from sloppy to swampy, luck often substituted for talent.

On Friday, Livonia Stevenson blanked visiting North Farmington 2-0. The victory kept the Spartans unbeaten overall (12-0-2) and in the Western Lakes Activities Association (8-0-2).

"Boy, it's unbelievable," said Stevenson coach Pete Scierri. "The field is just terrible. The middle is strictly mud, no grass at all."

The Spartans prevailed, though,

getting a goal in the first half from Lars Richters, with Bob Dimitriou assisting.

They increased their lead to 2-0 in the second half when the North sweeper tried to clear the ball back to his keeper. The ball stuck in the mud, and Ray Barnus swept in and punched it past Raider keeper Craig Nome. Richters was credited with an assist.

"They really did (play good defense), for what they could do," said North coach Cathy Cole. "Stevenson was lucky, especially on that second goal."

Spartan keeper Jeff Benek earned the shutout. Derek Williford and Kurt Will provided solid defense in

front.

On Wednesday, Stevenson shut out visiting Farmington 7-0. The Spartans rolled to a 5-0 halftime lead.

Eric Schwedt and Richters each scored twice, with Richters adding two assists. Barnus, Ray Galea and Bill Madden had one goal apiece. Benek was in goal for the shutout, as Stevenson outshot Farmington (3-6-3), 25-4.

SALEM 5, W.L. CENTRAL 0: Plymouth Salem scored all five of its goals in the opening half and coasted to victory Wednesday at Walled Lake Central.

Dennis Reynolds had a goal and an assist, and Andy Sharma, Randy Balconi, Mike Zaretti and Doug Fauer were scored.

Keepers Dave O'Malley and Don Koszt combined for Salem's fourth shutout, as the Rocks (8-3-1 overall, 6-3-1 in the WLAA) outshot Central 30-8.

CANTON 1, NORTHTVILLE 1: Northville led 1-0 at the half and outshot Plymouth Canton 14-6 Wednesday at Northville, but the Mustangs couldn't beat the Chiefs.

With three minutes left in the game, Jerry Staszal popped one into the net, with Scott Morgan assisting, to earn Canton a tie. That left the Chiefs with a 3-3-1 WLAA mark and a 3-5-3 overall record.

CHURCHILL 5, FRANKLIN 1: Livonia Churchill solidified its No. 1-state ranking with a dominating win at Livonia Franklin Wednesday.