

Sports

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(F18)



North rips Falcons, faces Hawks for title

By Bill Parker

staff writer

ALTHOUGH THE SUN was shining there was a dark cloud over the Farmington High School football field Saturday during the halftime homecoming activities.

The North Framingham Raiders invaded the Falcons' home turf, dampening the home crowd's spirit, with a 24-0 victory over the Hawks.

"We won it," said North coach Jim O'Leary. "This gives us the division and the right to play Harrison for the title. The kids were pumped up for this one. There were comments made that we were just an average team and that (Scott) Selzer was just the fourth best back they faced this year. We wanted to prove ourselves."

The Raiders did just that. Farmington ran into stormy weather early as the Falcons fumbled the ball away on their first play from scrimmage. They got off easy however as an attempted 35-yard field goal missed the uprights.

ON THE FIRST play of Farmington's second possession it again fumbled the ball away. This time, how-

ever, the Falcons paid for the mistake. North quarterback Scott Simon threw a strike to tight end Rich Karcher for a 22-yard touchdown. The extra point missed as North took a 6-0 lead.

Farmington again bobbled the first play of its ensuing drive and North took possession in Farmington territory. Selzer, who made believers of the Falcons, gaining 210 yards on 21 carries in the game, did the honors this time breaking off tackle and sprinting 32 yards to pay dirt. An attempted two-point conversion failed as North stormed ahead 12-0.

The Raider defense, led by John Krohl, Tim Sheehy, Andy Avery and Mike Sinanis, shut down the Falcons next drive and North took over at its own 25. The Raiders put the game all but out of reach when Selzer stormed up the middle for a 69-yard touchdown. The PAT was wide as North took an 18-0 lead.

THE RAIDERS turned out the lights on Farmington's next possession.

On fourth down and 12, deep in its own territory, Farmington prepared

to punt. But the speedy Krohl evaded the defensive line, blocked the punt and recovered the ball in the end zone for yet another first quarter Raider touchdown. The extra point attempt was wide, but by then it didn't matter. The game was all but over.

The game turned into a defensive struggle for the remaining three quarters. North's defense denied the Hawks and Farmington's offense continued to struggle.

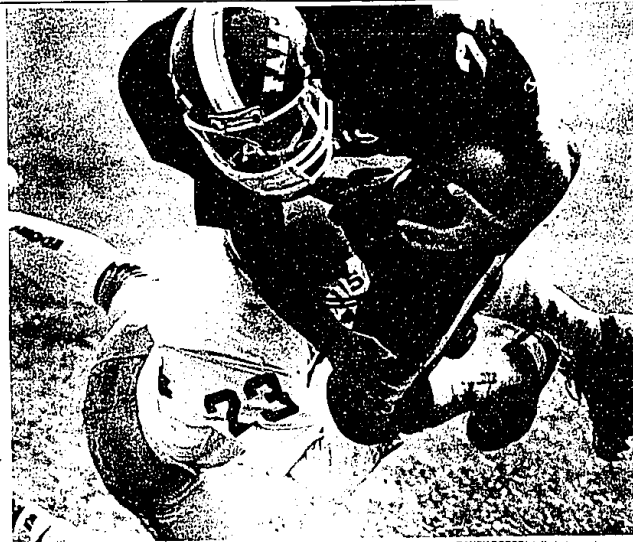
"We threw when they expected us to run and we ran when they expected us to throw," said O'Leary. "We mixed it up pretty well. We wanted to show people we're not a one-dimensional team."

THE RAIDERS churned up 260 yards on the ground on 30 carries. Simon completed nine of 16 pass attempts for 138 yards and one touchdown.

North's defense allowed Farmington just 114 yards total offense.

"Our defense has been getting better each week," said O'Leary. "The kids did a good job of adjusting to what they tried to do."

Emotionally we were ready for this game. It was our chance to win the division title."



Farmington's Paul Orrico is upended by North's Matt Suchelki Saturday in the Raiders' lopsided victory.

RANDY DORST/Staff photographer

Murray clicks, Harrison puts Western to rout

By Brad Emons

staff writer

Noisemakers from the Farmington Harrison rooting section weren't the only things constantly clicking on Saturday afternoon.

The Hawks' football team was clicking as well to the sound of a 38-3 Western Lakes Conference victory over visiting Walled Lake Western.

The win gives the Hawks, now 6-1 overall, the Western Division title outright. It also sets up a clash with rival North Farmington (also 6-1), the Lakes Division winner, for the conference championship Saturday at Harrison. (Game time is 1 p.m.)

But there's a twist to the Harrison-North matchup. The two teams will

football

play each other again Saturday, Nov. 1, at North in the regular season windup.

"It doesn't matter that we play them twice," said Harrison coach John Herrington. "One is going to be for the league and the other is going to be for the city championship. We're pleased to be in it since we're the small school (Class B) in the league. And I'm proud for Farmington. The kids said it's going to be a lot of fun."

THE HAWKS had a good time in

whipping Western before an enthusiastic homecoming crowd.

Harrison quarterback Mark Murray was sharp, completing 10 of 15 passes for 132 yards. He threw a pair of second quarter touchdown passes, a 6-yarder to Gary Schwedt followed by a 27-yarder to Mark Schmidt.

Rick White took a sweep and raced 67 yards for another Harrison TD in the second period. The first Harrison TD came late in the opening quarter on a 4-yard run by Scott Bissell, who led all ball carriers with 86 yards in nine carries. (Harrison kicker Mark Calvaruso added a 28-yard field goal in the second half and was 5 of 5 on extra points.)

A 39-yard field goal by Mike Henry with only two seconds left in the

'Harrison did everything and that's the best they've looked all year.'

—Chuck Apap
Western coach

first half averted a shutout for Western, which dipped to 2-5 overall.

"HARRISON DID EVERYTHING and that's the best they've looked all year," said Western coach Chuck Apap. "They kicked our butts all over the field. They controlled the line of scrimmage. I don't know what John did to get his kids pumped up, but they did a great job of at-

tacking our defense.

"If they play like they did today, nobody will touch them."

The final statistics bear out Harrison's dominance.

The Hawks had 371 yards total offense to Western's 53.

"We had a strong running and passing game today," said Herrington.

ton. "We knew we had a team that would break loose offensively. Murray's throwing was the difference. Last week (in a 7-0 win over Plymouth Canton) he was erratic, but he had some passes dropped. Today it seemed all his first passes were right there."

Herrington said his team was "loose" all week in practice.

"We had a lot of fun during the week because this was a no pressure game," he said. "Canton was a good team and they shut a lot of things down. We ran a few new plays this week, but the Canton game woke us up. We came out today to play."

And it appears the Hawks are ready for Saturday's championship clash.

Mercy evens up Ladywood score

Kind of a bang-bang day for Farmington Hills Mercy basketball coach Larry Baker.

Bang. He was involved in a car accident en route to school Friday morning. He's OK, the car isn't.

Bang. Friday night, his basketball team stayed alive in the Catholic League Central Division with a 41-36 win against Livonia Ladywood before 1,500 fans at Schoolcraft College.

"At no point in this game were we spectacular," Baker said. "But it was as solid a game as we've had all year. We played smart and we mixed it up at both ends of the floor without mixing ourselves up."

The win was Mercy's first in four meetings with the Blazers during back to last season. Also, it jams up the Central Division pretty good. Marian is on top of the division with a 5-1 mark. Mercy, Ladywood and Harper Woods Regina are 4-2. Regina still has games left with Mercy and Ladywood, and Marian has one game left with all three contenders.

"Yvette Maisen (Mercy's all-state point guard) was talking before the game how she had never beaten Ladywood in her career," Baker said. "I told her that would change tonight. I just had a real good feeling. The kids prepared well for this one. They were enthusiastic, but there wasn't the craziness you see in some teams. This game did not make our season. It just reinforced how good we can be."

THE LEAD changed hands numerous times through the first two quarters. Ladywood, behind strong efforts from Mandy Chandler, Julie Oaks and Nicole Ewald, led 30-29 at the half.

But Mercy took control in the third quarter outscoring Ladywood 20-14. Ladywood pulled to within a

girls basketball

point with three minutes left in the final quarter. After a timeout, Mercy's Maria Diola sent a pivotal 15-footer to keep the Blazers at Mercy's length.

A key note in that final quarter: Mandy Chandler and Katie McNulty, two of the Blazers' top offensive players, were held scoreless. Key statistics for Mercy: only 11 turnovers in the game and seven personal fouls.

"We just came out after them," Baker said. "We didn't have any offensive breakdowns like we had before. We put some new wrinkles in our offense. Jim McKee (assistant coach) called the plays from the bench, and Yvette Maisen ran the offense masterfully. We mixed up our presses in the third quarter, and Adrienne Clark and Margaret DeMatteis forced key turnovers."

Clark and DeMatteis were a force on the offensive end as well. Clark scored a game-high 18 points (with 12 rebounds). DeMatteis tallied 15. Maisen scored 14 and dished out eight assists.

"YOU COULD see the all-state soccer player in Margaret DeMatteis tonight," Baker said. "She was running the floor from baseline to baseline, getting involved in the action. She did for us what Chandler does for them. She was in the right place at the right time."

Chandler led Ladywood's scorers with 14. Julie Oaks and Ewald scored 12 each. McNulty was checked on eight.

Both teams are now 8-4 on the season.



STEVE FECHT/Staff photographer

Brandon London gained Farmington a key fourth-place finish Thursday helping the Falcons beat Walled Lake Central. Both the Farmington boys and girls capped unbeaten seasons with the Lakes title Thursday.

Falcons reclaim divisional crown

Round one goes to the Falcons. Farmington's boys and girls cross country teams claimed the Western Lakes Division championship Thursday with a double win against Walled Lake Central at Oakland Community College. The boys won 23-32, the girls 26-31.

Last year, Central stole the title from the Falcons in the final meet of the season. This year, Farmington got even.

Like last year, both teams brought unbeaten records into the meet.

"They were ready for us, and we were ready for them," said Farmington's girls coach John Barrett. "It was a very close race. Our three freshmen ran their best ever."

Walled Lake Central's Lisa Chalmers won the girls race with a 20:14. Farmington crossed in second, third, sixth, seventh and eighth.

Bonnie Stecker was the first Falcon, she was on Chalmers' heels in 20:24. Freshman Jennifer Kiel was third (20:31), freshman Amy Trunk sixth (20:53) and freshman Margaret Martin eighth (21:59). Anna Quenneville was seventh (21:19).

"We have seven to nine kids who run close together," Barrett said. "They filled the gaps nicely today."

IT WAS like old times for the Farmington boys team. Chris Inch and Al Stebbins ran 1-2 for the first time in a long, long time. (Stebbins has been injured). Inch ran the tough OCC course in a swift 16:02. Stebbins came home in 16:41 just ahead of Central's Arles Kimrey (16:43) and Farmington's Brandon London (16:44).

Ron Smedley placed seventh for Farmington (17:01) and Matt Walter was ninth (17:13).

"Chris ran one of his best times of the year, and on one of the best courses around," said Falcons boys

cross country

coach Jerry Young. "We got a little revenge today."

The Falcons finish with a 7-0 dual meet record.

Round two will be fought on Walled Lake's course Tuesday. The Western Lakes conference meet will begin at 4 p.m. Tuesday at Willis Park near Wixom. Both Falcon units captured the title a year ago and are expected to repeat this season.

FARMINGTON HARRISON (Boys) 25
LIVONIA CHURCHILL 31
Thursday at Cass Denton

Individual results: 1. Chris Hut (FH), 17:16; 2. Jeff Barringer (FH), 17:20; 3. Chris Preder (LC), 17:43; 4. Don Montgomery (LC), 17:54; 5. Seth Petty (FH), 18:01; 6. Pat Funk (FH), 18:07; 7. Dawn Dicks (LC), 18:15; 8. Paul Newberry (LC), 18:35; 9. Derek Weaver (LC), 18:49; 10. Tim Grogg (LC), 18:50.

Dual meet records: Harrison 3-4; Churchill 2-5.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL (Girls) 22
FARMINGTON HARRISON 28
Thursday at Cass Denton

Individual results: 1. Karen Kantov (LC), 20:20; 2. Jenny Anderson (FH), 20:53; 3. Edye Freischer (FH), 21:50; 4. Justine Shwaka (LC), 22:00; 5. Darlene Cooper (LC), 22:24; 6. Kristin Custer (LC), 23:41; 7. Mike Delamater (LC), 24:08; 8. Christy McAlpine (LC), 24:39; 9. Chris Gies (LC), 25:11; 10. Anne Johnson (FH), 25:39.

Dual meet records: Churchill 5-2; Harrison 1-6.

NORTH FARMINGTON (Boys) 27
LIVONIA STEVENSON 28
Thursday at Cass Denton

Individual results: 1. Alice Jewell (NF), 20:34; 2. Karen Kuehl (LC), 20:46; 3. Donna Chubb (NF), 21:04; 4. Wendy Newer (NF), 21:41; 5. Jane Eberman (LC), 22:09; 6. Kim Fred (LC), 22:26; 7. Jenni Daniel (LC), 22:35; 8. Jon Goodall (LC), 22:57; 9. Caroline Alton (NF), 23:44; 10. Mita Feldman (NF), 23:50.

Dual meet records: North 5-2; Stevenson 2-5.