

# "Big win boosts Falcons' spirits"

By Dan O'Meara

In the wake of Saturday's emotionally uplifting victory, Farmington football coach Dave Catherman is optimistic about his team's prospects for the second half of the season.

The Falcons bashed winless Wallied Lake Central 21-7 for their first win in four games, but the way in which Farmington dominated the game supported the notion it isn't as bad as its 1-3 record might indicate.

Farmington has faced a grueling, early-season schedule, and the Falcons will get another test Saturday when they play host to Livonia Stevenson, which upset undefeated Westland John Glenn 14-9 last Friday.

The Rockets were 40-0 winners over Farmington two weeks ago.

"We felt we played a strong game against John Glenn, but they made all the big plays," Catherman said. "Just because of the way we played, we could control field position (against WLC).

"We felt our defense and controlling the line of scrimmage would be the key factors," he added.

THE FALCONS managed to dominate the line play, and its defense was an overwhelming factor.

Farmington harassed Viking quarterback Derek Wallace into throwing three interceptions and sacked him for a minus-21 yards.

Linebacker Mike Neal also played a big part in the Falcons holding WLC to a net rushing total of 18 yards.

Bill Lindbert had two of the interceptions, and Dave Dunn, who had six solo tackles, two assists and a pass deflection, had the other.

Farmington's offensive statistics were not overwhelming — 188 total yards (88 rushing) — but the offense did its part by taking advantage of two of six turnovers and a puntling miscue to score all three touchdowns.

The Falcons were so in control of the overall situation that Catherman sent out the field goal unit to make first-half attempts from 45 and 44 yards.

Leading 7-0 early in the second quarter, Farmington also went for the first down on fourth-and-3 at the Viking 34.

None of the three attempts were successful, but the Falcons were never made to regret the failed effort. In fact, it was after that that Farmington turned the bungled WLC punt into another TD and a 15-0 half-time lead.

FOR THE record, the Vikings' first-half possessions ended with a punt, lost fumble, interception, punt, lost fumble and the botched punt.

The seventh, mercifully, was cut short by the second-quarter clock.

After the opening kickoff and the interception, Farmington had to start from its own 17- and 21-yard lines. Otherwise, everything else began at the Falcon 45 and closer.

"Our goal today was to continue to improve our line play," Catherman said. "We wanted to dominate the line of scrimmage.

(Assistant) coach (Todd) Lipa has been very patient, and we're just now catching up to other teams."

In the process, Catherman conducted an experiment at quarter-back. Senior Drew McDougall is sidelined with mononucleosis, and seniors Brad Campbell and Joe Johnston took turns running the offense.

"DREW is going to be out another two weeks, and I had to find out which one could do the job," Catherman said. "And I wanted to give them equal opportunity."

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# Hawks, Raiders only unbeatens

By Brad Emmons and Dan O'Meara staff writers

Heading into the fifth week of the high school football season, only two schools out of 20 remain undefeated in observations.

Farmington Harrison (4-0), although suffering a severe blow when it learned that starting tailback Rick Witte will be out for the season, remains the team to beat among area schools.

(Witte broke his arm in last week's 31-15 win over Wallied Lake Central.)

North Farmington (4-0) is a big surprise thus far and could be making a bid to meet Western Division favorite Harrison for the Western Lakes Activities Association crown in Week No. 8.

But the defensive-minded Raiders still must get past Wallied Lake Central this weekend, Westland John Glenn (3-1) and Farmington before getting a crack at the title.

GLENN, state-ranked and the Lakes Division favorite, must battle back after being ambushed by Livonia Stevenson last week, 14-9. But the Rockets could face Harrison if they beat Plymouth Salem (3-1) and North on successive weekends.

In the Catholic League's Central Division, one of the most brutal races in years, appears to be a battle shaping between Birmingham Brother Rice (4-0), Warren DeLaSalle (3-1) and Redford Catholic Central (3-1). But the spoilers could be Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher, Harper Woods Notre Dame and Redford Bishop Borgess — all 2-2 and 0-1 in Division play.

Last week, the expert prognosticators tied for the third time in four weeks, both going 10-4. O'Meara is 44-15, while Emmons is 43-18.

Here are the picks for Week No. 5.

## FRIDAY GAMES

(all 7:30 p.m. unless noted)

Claremont vs. Detroit Lutheran West (7 p.m.); Everybody got into the act last week in the Trojans' 55-18 romp over Hamtramck. West (2-2) is coming off an eight-point loss to Harper Woods Lutheran East. Greg

Harris is a dangerous runner for West. Picks — West takes care of Claremont.

Redford Union at Garden City: The winner will ultimately avoid the basement of the Northwest Suburban League. Both are seeking their first win and both have earned a tough schedule. Picks — The coin, please, Emmons takes RU. O'Meara gives the edge to the Panthers, too.

W.L. Western at Liv. Churchill: Western (1-3) caught Harrison last Friday on an "oil night," but still lost 31-15. Churchill (2-2) muffled a few chances to beat Franklin last week. Picks — Churchill bounces back.

Lin. Franklin at Northville: The Patriots (2-2) have the ability to move the ball behind the running of quarterback Craig Allard and tailback Gary Hudgins. Northville, which has played four close games, is still seeking its first win. Picks — The Mustangs get their first win. Franklin.

Farm. Harrison at Ply. Canton: Traditionally, Canton gives Harrison a tougher battle than any other team in the Western Division. But traditionally, Harrison always wins. Picks — No upset in the making. Go with Harrison.

Catholic Central vs. Harper Woods. Blah. Gallagher (at East Detroit Memorial Field): This is going to be a tough, defensive battle. Gallagher is capable of springing the upset. CC spurned its option game last week in the win over Borgess and Chris Kovach gained 133 yards. Picks — Tough to call, but go with CC.

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## SATURDAY GAMES

(all 1 p.m. unless noted)

Liv. Stevenson at Farmington: The Falcons (1-3) are feeling better about themselves after turning in their best effort of the year Saturday in a 21-7 win over Wallied Lake Central. Stevenson (2-2) is also feeling better after upsetting Glenn. Picks — Stevenson feels just super, beats Farmington.

D.H. Crestwood at Red. Thurston: The Eagles (0-4) put some points on the board last week against first-place Allen Park, but the defense allowed quarterback John Jaskowski to run wild for 216 yards in a 28-12 defeat. Crestwood (2-2) is coming off a 10-9 win over Dearborn Heights rival Ann Arbor. The Chargers are led by kicker Bill Stoyanovich, brother of Indiana's Pete Stoyanovich. Picks — Thurston gets its first victory.

Lutheran Westland at Lutheran Northwest: Lutheran Westland won by five points at home last week against the same opponent, 14-9. The home-field advantage won't help the home team this time. Picks — Lutheran Westland makes it two in a row.

Wayne Memorial at Dearborn Fordson (1:30 p.m.): Roll, tractor, roll. That's the cry for the perennial Wolverine A League winner. Wayne quarterback Mike Heard has been on a roll as well. Picks — Fordson is a little too rough for Wayne to handle.

Blah. Borgess vs. Harper Woods. Notre Dame (1:30 p.m. at GC Junior High): Notre Dame lost to No. 1-ranked Birmingham Brother Rice last week, 15-0, while Borgess was blanked by former No. 1 Catholic Central, 14-0. A healthy Corey Ivey is essential if Borgess is going to pick up a win. Picks — Emmons has a hunch it's Borgess. O'Meara learned his lesson when he picked Kalamazoo Central to beat Borgess in the opener — and lost the bet.

St. Agatha vs. Wyandotte Mt. Carmel (7:30 p.m. at RU's Kraft Field): The Aggies have not played well this season but should get a boost against the Comets (1-3), an awful team that lost to Pontiac Catholic last week, 33-0. Picks — The Aggies peek up.

N. Farmington at W.L. Central (8 p.m.): This game has been rescheduled in honor of the Yom Kippur holiday. It doesn't matter what day the Raiders play, especially against a team like winless Central. Picks — North makes it live in a row.

# Area players fill void with Lions

By Marty Budner

staff writer

DARRYL ROGERS took a good glimpse at the NFL when Ron Wendt grabbed a pass across the middle of the field during Tuesday's Detroit Lions practice at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Defensive back coach Willie Shaw grabbed cornerback Steve Hirsch and offered a few words of advice. Over in the corner of the end zone, offensive line coach Bill Muir ordered Milt Carthens and his fellow linemen through a rigorous set of sprints.

Most Detroit Lions fans will recognize the coaches names. But the players are a different story.

Wendt, Hirsch and Carthens are three free-agent football players seeking a spot on the Lions roster for Sunday's National Football League game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

While the NFL players remain on the sidelines, striking over the free-agency issue, NFL owners are determined to continue the season with or without their front-line stars. All 28 NFL teams are scheduled to play this weekend.

To do so, owners have filled their teams with pickup players referred to as "B Squads." The striking players call them "scabs."

WHATEVER the designation, Hirsch, Carthens and Wendt hope to be in a Detroit Lions uniform Sunday

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CARTHENS CHECKED into the Lions camp on Tuesday a whopping 300 pounds — some 40 pounds over his college playing weight. He was working as a physical therapist at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital when the Lions contacted his agent, Mike MacDonald.

Carthens, who had a tryout with the Michigan Panthers in 1984, is hoping to make the team and fulfill a dream of playing professionally in his hometown.

"This is the first time I've ever tried out for an NFL team," said Carthens. "The exposure of playing in the Silverdome in front of your hometown fans would be great — even if it lasts for only one game."

Wendt, whose older brother Greg played basketball at the University of Detroit and later had a tryout with the Boston Celtics, figures practicing with the Lions beats "sitting around at home on my butt."

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