

Sports

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No. 7 doesn't come easy for Hawks

Perhaps it was just the law of averages attempting to balance the figures. Or maybe the credit should go to a Northville defense that has held other opponents down despite a losing record.

Area football observers will certainly think Farmington Harrison suffered a let-down Friday night against the 1-0 Mustangs, but Hawks coach John Harrington and his staff would no doubt attribute their team's apparent close call in a 14-6 victory to the latter.

Regardless, the Hawks are still battling 1,000 after seven games. The only difference is the way the Western Division champions had to fight to keep their record perfect.

Harrison, 5-0 in the division and 7-0 overall, will face either Westland John Glenn or North Farmington for the Western Lakes title at the opponent's field either Friday (if it's Glenn) or Saturday (if it's North).

THE HAWKS, who scored no less than 31 points in any of their first six games and had outscored Plymouth Canton and Livonia Churchill 71-0 in their last two, were held to their closest margin of the season.

But Harrison's defense, which has been equal to the task every time in allowing only 33 points, stuffed the Mustangs and effectively countered the job Northville's defense did against the Hawks' potent offense.

The Mustangs, who are noted for having a stubborn defense but lacking the offense to complement it, had only 40 yards in total offense and managed to avert a shutout only because of their defense.

Linebacker Todd Daniels ran 58 yards with a fumble to pull Northville to within 7-6 late in the third quarter. But the Mustang offense gained just 12 yards rushing and 28 passing against a defense led by Mark Bonasso, who had 11 tackles.

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tees, including six solos. Linebacker Larry Turner, noseguard Bob Hird and end Rob Heath had nine tackles apiece, and Phil Rider (eight tackles) had a pass interception.

HARRISON was able to move the ball against Northville's defense, picking up 17 first downs to two for the Mustangs. But the Hawks couldn't reach the end zone as often they are accustomed to doing.

Leading 7-0, Harrison got to the Northville 7 after a 17-yard run by Aaron Yaverski and inched closer to the 2 before Mike Karfis killed the drive with an interception. Hawks quarterback Millard Coleman was

under pressure all night as Northville crashed its ends continuously. Forced to scramble a lot, he was thrown for a minus 34 yards.

Harrison finished with a net rushing total of 97 yards after lost yardage was taken into account, but the Hawks still far outgained Northville. Coleman was 9-of-15 passing for 113 yards as Harrison rolled up 210 total against the Mustangs' bend-but-never-break defense.

Junior fullback Aaron Yaverski was the workhorse, carrying the ball 30 times for 117 yards, including a 6-yard scoring run on his sixth carry of the game.

THE HAWKS took a 7-0 lead with 5:01 to play in the opening quarter on Yaverski's run and Steve Hill's point-after kick.

The score remained that until 1:57 in the third period. Harrison fullback Rob Bruhn

had taken a handoff from Coleman and started on a run through the middle when Daniels stole the ball and was headed the other way before the Hawks knew what had happened.

Defensive tackle Jeff Skinner protected Harrison's lead by blocking the extra-point kick, however.

The aroused Hawks responded quickly, driving for their second touchdown on the ensuing possession. Yaverski got the call several times along the way, and Bruhn atoned for the earlier play by scoring the TD on a 2-yard burst at 10:01 in the fourth quarter. Hill kicked the extra point again.

Coleman also threw key passes under coverage to Brian Soeder and Bryan Wauldron during the drive. Wauldron caught four passes for 53 yards in the game. Soeder four for 48.

Raiders defeat Falcons

By Dan O'Meara staff writer

North Farmington and Farmington have opposite football records, but that didn't mean anything Saturday when these crosstown rivals locked horns.

For the better part of the afternoon, the Falcons were a match for the Raiders, playing the same brand of solid defense for which North is noted.

But the Raiders, while not being an explosive team offensively, have found a way to win many close games this season, and that held true once again as they squeezed by with a 7-0 victory.

North finished 4-1 in the Lakes Division and is tri-champion along with Westland John Glenn and Livonia Stevenson for the second straight year. The Raiders upped their overall record to 6-1. Farmington is 1-4 and 1-6.

"We honestly thought this was a toss-up game since we had every-body back where we wanted," said Falcon coach Dave Catherman, alluding to the return of quarterback Drew McDougall from illness and others recovering from injuries.

"IT'S NICE to play well, but you wouldn't mind playing crummy and getting a victory. Everybody around here is content with doing a nice job, but you play the game to win."

With the exception of the game's only scoring drive, the Farmington defense was impressive in putting the clamps on a North offense that has proved itself capable. The Falcons gave a little in places, allowing 157 total yards, but stopped North numerous times.

The Raiders turned the ball over on their first two possessions, but defense has been North's bread-and-butter all year. The Raiders also held Farmington's offense in check, limiting the Falcons to 48 total yards and five first downs, two of which were gained by penalty.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Ryan Meador rushes for some of his 100 yards while being pursued by a Farmington defender in Saturday's Lakes Division finale. Meador

scored the game's only touchdown as the Raiders defeated the host Falcons 7-0.

"The defense, considering what happened to it last week," said North coach Jim O'Leary, referring to a 31-14 loss to Glenn, "certainly rose to the occasion."

"It was a combination of them playing good defense and us not executing as we should have. I thought our defense played outstanding; the offense just didn't."

FARMINGTON couldn't do anything after Dave Dunn's early interception, but the Falcons got the ball again at the North 20-yard line after the first of Jeff Brandt's two fumble recoveries. However, Farmington lost the ball on a fumble two plays later.

The Raiders came closest to scoring late in the first half. A personal foul on a punt return gave North the ball at the Farmington 34. But the Falcons dug in at their 10, and Chad Henry's 37-yard field goal attempt with 1:07 left was no good.

North, however, opened the second half with its winning drive. The Raiders used up the first 7:36 of the third-quarter clock, going 70 yards in 14 plays.

A pass interference penalty provided some added impetus, giving North a first down at the Falcon 24. Ryan Meador, who rushed for 100 yards on 21 carries, scored the touchdown four plays later on a 9-yard burst up the middle.

"The bottom line is we won," O'Leary said. "I told them (at halftime) 'The only people beating you are yourselves. Let's go out and run the plays.'"

"AFTER WE moved the ball against Glenn, to turn around and be so bad against Farmington is frustrating."

With the rain beginning to dampen the field, Farmington missed another scoring opportunity when it recovered a fumbled punt.

Brandt fell on the ball at the North 32 early in the fourth period, and this time the Falcons were helped by an interference call, moving them down to the 17. But a run and two incomplete passes led to Brian Perkins' unsuccessful 35-yard field goal try.

Farmington stopped the Raiders on three downs and began their first serious drive, picking up two first downs to reach the North 43. But McDougall was sacked on consecutive plays, and the Falcons were forced to punt.

"Our only chance was to use our passing attack, and the weather kinda baited that," Catherman said. McDougall was 6-of-16 for 34 yards, North's Scott Simon 4-of-8 for 25.

JOE STURTZ added 34 yards rushing (11 carries), and Dunn had 28 yards on 14 attempts to lead the Falcons.

O'Leary said he didn't think the loss to Glenn should have affected his team's performance.

"We didn't take Farmington lightly," he said. "I told the kids 'Farmington will come out and hit you.'"

"But we weren't ready despite the chance to be 6-1 and tri-champions. If I could figure that out, I'd be coach of the year."

Farmington plays Plymouth Canton and Redford Union in its final two games, and Catherman was encouraged by Saturday's showing.

"Now that we're playing at this level, we feel the next two games are a great opportunity to cash in on a victory," he said.

"Right now we'd take a lousy job and a victory over a great job and a loss."

Mercy routs B. Gallagher

With an important week of Catholic League play coming up, Mercy basketball coach Larry Baker was pleased to see his team's defense perform so well.

The Marlins held their second-place position in the Central Division by strangling Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher 46-26 Thursday.

"The thing I feel better about is, for the second straight game, we kept our opponent under 30 points," Baker said. "I think we're playing good defense."

The victory was Mercy's fourth in a row since losing to division-leading Birmingham Marian, whom the Marlins (8-4 overall) will play host to Tuesday night in a rematch of that 52-51 setback.

While Marian has no losses, Mercy is second at 5-1 and Livonia Ladywood is third, having lost to the two teams ahead of it. The Marlins play Ladywood Friday night at Schoolcraft College.

Ladywood has put itself in a position where it can't afford to lose another one," Baker said. "Of course, we were in that position last year, and we went through the second half of the season and won them all."

Mercy trailed 8-4 after one quarter against BG, but the Marlins never did reach double figures in any quarter as Mercy came to life and pulled away with the help of a 21-6 third quarter.

"Our press was pretty effective, and that got us some easy baskets," Baker said. "Plus, we found a soft spot in their zone, and Adrienne (Clark) was stepping in there and banging them down."

Clark finished with 18 points (10 in the third) and 14 rebounds. Jenny Clinton had six of her 11 points in the third period, and Jan Herberholz added nine.

BG's Stacy Kraiza, who scored 28 and 31 points against Mercy last year, was held to nine. The Lancers are 1-5 in the division, 2-9 overall.

SALEM 86, N. FARMINGTON 34: North Farmington girls basketball coach Greg Capling has seen Plymouth Salem's powerhouse squad twice, and it would be an understatement to say he has come away impressed.

Dena Head poured in a game-high 33 points and Jill Estey scored 24 Thursday as the fifth-rated Rocks trounced the Raiders 86-34.

"They're awesome," Capling said. "You can make up a defense for them (in the half court), but their transition game is unbelievable."

"You can't stop them in the open floor. Those two (Head and Estey) don't turn the ball over. They have eyes in back of their heads."

Head has raised her scoring average to 29.5, and she also had 10 rebounds, seven assists and four blocked shots. Estey also had an astounding 19 assists and eight steals.

"They're getting their points, but they're also passing the ball," Salem coach Fred Thomann said.

"We really played well tonight. Everything was clicking; everyone was hitting."

McBride contributed 13 points, seven rebounds and four assists to the victory, center Barb Krug eight points and 10 rebounds.

The Rocks, 7-0 in the Lakes Division and 13-1 overall, jumped out to a 20-point lead in the first quarter, 25-5.

Salem led 42-14 at halftime before the Raiders played a respectable third quarter in which the Rocks had a 22-15 edge.

Salem, however, won going away

girls basketball

as it outscored North 22-2 over the final eight minutes.

"My kids played hard and never gave up," Capling said. "We're not a bad team. We're 7-5, but against those guys we just can't match up. They're much quicker than us."

Capling estimated the Rocks are 30 percent better than they were a year ago, the big difference being their offensive potency.

"Eighty-six points sounds like they're running up the score, but by no means," he said. "They've just got a good team."

"They're unbelievably tough. Twice in one season is enough. I'm glad we don't have to play them in 20 games."

Suzi Butcher and Kim Gurecki scored 10 points apiece and Donna O'Brien seven for the Raiders, who are 3-4 in the division.

W.L. CENTRAL 75, FARMINGTON 58: The Falcons found they could recover from one deficit but not two.

'My kids played hard and never gave up. We're not a bad team. We're 7-5, but against (Salem) we just can't match up. They're much quicker than us.'

—Greg Capling
North basketball coach

Farmington, 0-8 in the Lakes Division and 3-9 overall, fell behind 14-5 in the first quarter. They fought back in the next eight minutes, using a full-court press and the scoring chances it provided, to cut WLC's halftime lead to 28-26.

But the effort went for naught as the Falcons suffered a third-period letdown and were on the trailing end of a 52-40 score entering the finale.

"Our scoring was OK," Farmington coach Diana Fair said. "Fifty-eight is a heckuva lot of points, but when you give the other team 71 you're not going to win."

"We love to get down by 10-12 points and try battling back. We did that in the first quarter and it worked. But then we tried to do it again in the third. I don't know; I'm trying to figure it out."

Stacy Swandorski scored a season-high 21 points and had 13 rebounds for the Falcons. Sophomore center Erica Hatcher, playing her third varsity game since being promoted from the junior varsity, had 10 points, five rebounds and four blocks. Linda Hacker added nine points.

WLC's Leah Vilades scored 22 points (18 in the second half), Kelly O'Hanlon 16 and Nancy Kotwick 13, including 12 in the first half.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Members of the Farmington defense that performed so well against once-beaten North Farmington chase the Raiders' Todd Gesund. The Falcons are Brian Townsley (78), Tom

Stanek (55) and Wayne Ruessell (81). North quarterback Scott Simon is in the background.