

# Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/644-1101



(F)1C

Monday, October 19, 1987 O&amp;P

## 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 7-0 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 the way 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).

### 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 cross-town 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 game since we had everybody 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, holding the Falcons to a North offense that has moved itself capable. The Falcons gave a little in places, allowing 15 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 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 18, 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 3-yard burst up the middle.

"The bottom line is we won," O'Leary said. "I told them (at the half), '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 attempt.

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 kind of halted that," Catherman said. McDougall was 6-15 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 win over a great team and a 20-18 edge."

Salem, however, won going away



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 Russell (61). North quarterback Scott Simon is in the background.

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 win over a great team and a 20-18 edge."

Salem, however, won going away

### football

**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.

The Hawks' 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 galzed just 12 yards rushing and 28 passing against a defense led by Mark Bonasso, who had 11 tac-

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 9-15 passing for 113 yards as Harrison rolled up 21 total against the Mustangs' bend-but-never-break defense.

Junior tailback 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 mistake 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 Waudron during the drive. Waudron caught four passes for 53 yards in the game, Soeder four for 48.

## Mercy routs B. Gallagher

### 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 38:** 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 W.L.C.'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 Swanderski 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.

W.L.C.'s Leah Vilisles scored 22 points (18 in the second half), Kelly O'Hanlon 16 and Nancy Kotwicki 13, including 12 in the first half.