

# Sports

Brad Emons, Dan O'Meara editors/591-2312



Monday, November 16, 1987 OGC

(F11C)

## Coleman's passing rips apart Falcons

### Hawks trounce 2nd playoff foe, earn rematch with Marysville

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

If you can't go through an opponent's defense, the only alternative is to go over it.

Farmington Harrison's plan was to emphasize the pass Saturday, and the Hawks rode the arm of quarterback Millard Coleman to a smashing, 35-6 defeat of Monroe St. Mary-Catholic Central in the second round of the Class B playoffs at Riverview. The victory gave Harrison, 10-1, a regional title and set up a semifinal rematch with defending state champ Marysville, which stopped the Hawks one game short of the Silverdome a year ago.

The gridiron heavyweights collide at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Flint's Atwood Stadium. The Vikings also are 10-1; SMCC finishes with the same record.

"It's going to be a battle of a game, and I just hope we play better than we did last year," Harrison coach John Herrington said.

IN ST. MARY-CC, the Hawks were up against a defense that was big and strong on the line and tough against the run. But Coleman and his offensive teammates made a shambles of the Falcons' defense, nearly doubling the number of points SMCC had allowed in its first 10 games. Harrison's line gave the 160-pound sophomore time to throw, and Coleman riddled the SMCC secondary for 282 yards and two touchdowns. He completed 12 of 21 passes, had two intercepted and hit Brian Seoder and Chad Burgess for TDs covering 17 and 67 yards.

"I knew I had to be able to throw the ball well today if we were going to be successful," Coleman said. "We practiced throwing all week. We knew they'd be a tough team up front, because they're big and physical."

Coleman also was a threat on the ground once again. The pass was not the only means by which he damaged the Falcon defense. He scrambled for 50 yards, including a 28-yard run for Harrison's second TD. "Nothing he does surprises me,"

## football

**'Nothing (Millard Coleman) does surprises me. He does stuff like that in practice every day.'**

— John Herrington  
Harrison football coach

said Herrington of Coleman's pass-run ability. "He does stuff like that in practice every day."

SMCC WAS geared to stop tailback Aaron Yavarski after his near 200-yard game against Allen Park, and the Falcons held him to 51 yards and Harrison to 106 total on the ground.

Yavarski scored the Hawks' other TDs on short bursts of 3 and 2 yards, but it was the passing of Coleman that either put the Hawks in the end zone or set up the scores this week.

Burgess was the main beneficiary of Coleman's aerials, catching five passes for 134 yards, and tight end Bryan Wauldron had four receptions for 104, the last one covering 56 yards to set up the game's final TD.

"We had hoped to run a little better than we did," Herrington said. "But they play a 5-3 defense and bring eight people. When they do that, you'd better be ready to throw, because you're not going to run."

The Hawks let everyone know what they planned to do when Coleman threw deep on the first play of the game. The pass fell incomplete, but he directed a scoring drive the next time. Harrison had the ball. Coleman was 9-of-14 for 58 yards on the eight-play drive that Yavarski finished off.

SMCC DROVE to the Hawks' 20-

yard line early in the second quarter, but turned the ball over on downs when two passes were unsuccessful. Harrison then went 80 yards for a 14-0 lead. Coleman passed 26 yards to Wauldron and, on the next play, ran for six points.

"That was a planned sprintout run," he said. "I had a nice block downfield from Chad Burgess."

The Hawks turned a Burgess interception into a 21-0 halftime lead. Yavarski's longest run of the day (18 yards) put the ball inside the Falcon 10; however, a holding penalty moved the Hawks back to the 17. But Coleman zipped a perfect strike down the middle to Seoder for the TD on the next play.

For the second straight game, the opponent's only score resulted from a breakdown on the special teams. SMCC's Kurt May returned the second-half kickoff to the Harrison 7, but the Falcons needed all four downs before Brent Orr scored on a 1-yard quarterback sneak.

"We kicked it away from 38 (Doug Lipford), because he had a good return," Herrington said. "And then 22 almost breaks it. I don't know what we're going to do."

The Hawks put the game out of reach late in the third period with Coleman's second TD pass. Harrison had his back to the ball on third-and-19 from its own 33, but Coleman hooked up with Burgess, who was streaking down the right sideline and just kept on going.

"THAT SURE made us breathe easier," Herrington said. "We didn't want them to get momentum after the kickoff (return and score)."

Harrison finished off the Falcons following a Wes Wood interception. The Hawks were in the end zone again in four plays, the big one being Coleman's pass to Wauldron and the last one being a handoff to Yavarski.

The Hawks intercepted three Orr passes, held SMCC's ground-oriented offense in check and forced the Falcons into passing situations. SMCC had 153 yards rushing, and Orr was



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Millard Coleman heads for the end zone on his way to a 28-yard touchdown run that gave Harrison a 14-0 lead. He also passed for 282 yards

and two scores as the Hawks destroyed Monroe St. Mary-Catholic Central 35-6.

1-of-12 passing for 10 yards.

"It's tough to come out of your game plan if you're not used to doing that," Herrington said.

"We knew we had to shut them down and force them to throw,

which they're not as good at," defensive tackle Jeff Skinner said. "We were confident we could do that."

Skinner's counterpart at the other tackle, Mark Bonasso, wasn't content with Saturday's defensive ef-

fort. He already was thinking of the next game.

"I'm happy but I'm not going to let it get to me," he said, "because I know we have a lot more in front of us than what's behind us."

## Shamrocks stay alive by defeating Stallions

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

## football

**'Our plan was to go right at them like we do against everybody else. But if we're not having success at running the ball, we have other things we can go to.'**

— Tom Mach  
CC football coach

What's this, Air Mach? Redford Catholic Central stumped the experts Saturday, taking a page out of former San Diego Charger coach Don Coryell's notebook, using the forward pass to beat previously unbeaten Sterling Heights for the Class A Region IV football championship, 10-7.

The win sets up Boys Bowl II, a confrontation between CC (10-1) and Birmingham Brother Rice (10-1) for the second time this season. (CC won the first meeting in double overtime, 10-7.) The two Catholic League rivals will meet in the state semifinals at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 at Walled Lake Central High School. Rice also advanced, winning the Region III crown with a 27-13 win over Groesbeek Pointe South.

CC coach Tom Mach, whose teams are known traditionally for their grinding offensive ground game, had other ideas against the massive Stallions defense as junior quarterback Scott Hauncher, in his best outing of the season, completed 12 of 23 passes for 133 yards and one touchdown.

"OUR PLAN was to go right at them like we do against everybody else," said Mach. "But if we're not having success at running the ball, we have other things we can go to."

The Shamrocks dominated statistically, running 55 plays to the host Stallions' 31. CC rolled up 253 yards total offense to Sterling Heights' 193. But nearly half of those Sterling Heights yards came on one play, an 80-yard touchdown run by quarterback Chris Demetral with 6:59 left in the first half to give his team a 7-0 lead. (George Badalow added the extra point.)

Prior to that score, CC marched

twice inside the Sterling Heights 10, only to come up empty. Pete Elezovic first missed a 30-yard field goal and then fullback Lee Krueger was stopped short of a first down on fourth-and-1.

But Elezovic later redeemed himself, kicking the game-winning field goal, a 19-yarder, with 4:21 left in the game.

But the key series in the intense battle occurred just before halftime when Hauncher directed 78-yard TD drive in less than two minutes, completing five straight passes capped by a 9-yard scoring toss to Jeff Stajnecki with only 18 seconds left.

"IN THE FIRST HALF we played well, but we just didn't get the first downs when we needed it," said Mach, who led CC to the state title in 1979. "But that was one of the best last-minute drives I've ever seen at CC. Our quarterback showed great

measured poise, waiting and then hitting his secondary receiver.

"In order to keep on winning in the playoffs you've got to have that poise in key situations. This is only his second year of playing quarterback and he has a lot more confidence than he did in the early part of the season. He's played 11 games now and he's starting to see the whole field. He's reading the defenses much better."

Hauncher, faced with a crucial fourth-and-11 situation in the final quarter, connected with Johnston on a 17-yarder over the middle for a key first down, setting up Elezovic's game-winner.

But Hauncher didn't do it all himself, as CC's offensive line — Toby Heaton, Mike Firestone, Kurt Ross, Ted Rieple, Lou Yeager and Erik Knuth — provided more than adequate protection.

AND CC'S DEFENSE once again held up its end of the bargain, stopping the Stallions' last-ditch try for victory.

With less than three minutes to go, Demetral hit four of six passes, marching his team down to the CC 20.

But the Shamrocks' right side of the line stopped Rich Pyzel on a sweep, 2 yards short of the first down marker on fourth-and-three with just over a minute remaining.

"It was a quick pitch using our best blocker and best runner, all we needed was a first down," said Sterling Heights coach Bob Miles. "If I had to do it all over again I might have run something different." "It was a good play. A surprise because I anticipated a pass," said Mach. "They ran a good play, but our end normally reads that pretty well."



STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

game. CC beat Sterling Heights to advance in the state playoffs, 10-7.

CC kicker Pete Elezovic (left) embraces holder Dave Hallway after booting what proved to be the game-winning field goal with 4:19 left in the