

Falcons play well in defeat

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Farmington's 27-0 loss to Plymouth Salem will be recorded as just another one-sided game in what has been a difficult year for the winless Falcons.

But, the reality of the final score aside, Farmington actually gave a good account of itself against a superior opponent Saturday.

The Falcons, who celebrated the school's 100th anniversary as part of homecoming festivities, finished 0-5 in the Lakes Division and fell to 0-7 overall.

Salem, rebounding from two straight losses to North Farmington and Westland John Glenn, is 3-2 in the division and 5-2 for the season. Before surrendering three fourth-quarter touchdowns, the Falcon defense made a game of it and, for the most part, held Salem's triple-option offense in check.

THE ROCKS scored off their first possession, Ryan Johnson running 17 yards on a quarterback keep. But the Farmington defense kept the margin at 6-0 until field position late in the game tipped the scales.

"Maybe the defense got worn down at the end," Falcons coach Rick Milhizer said, "but I thought the defense did a real good job. We did what we set out to do. We stopped their drive and, all in all, stopped their option."

The Rocks were unable to generate any offense the rest of the half, but 53 yards in first-half penalties and a fumbled punt worked against the Salem offense, too.

"They had a nice (defensive) scheme and came after us pretty well," Salem coach Tom Mosheimer said. "They played inspired football."

"I was very happy with the way we played in the first half," he added. "The last three weeks we've mistaked ourselves. We stop ourselves more than the other teams do."

THE ROCKS took advantage of field position in the fourth quarter to punch out three consecutive TDs.



RANDY BORSHT/Staff photographer

Dave Winey rushed for 89 yards and gave the Falcons a first-half scoring opportunity with a 60-yarder, but Farmington failed to capitalize.

John Brannan downed a punt at the Farmington 2-yard line, and Salem got the ball at the Falcons' 38 after they punted. Mike Jarvey plunged 1 yard and Johnson passed to Brian Burlington to make it 14-0.

The Rocks took over again at the Farmington 41 and 25 following a failed fake punt and Bryan Schultz' interception. Johnson passed 19 yards to Scott Austin and Brannan ran 3 yards with 0:28 remaining to finish the scoring.

"We could have been conservative and lost 14-0, but it's my philosophy that we play to win," said Milhizer of the fake punt. "The Rocks outgained Farmington 274-124, with Johnson rushing for 106 of the team's 178 total on 16 carries. Rob Kowalski was 3-of-8 passing for 77 yards.

The Falcons had a chance to even the score in the second quarter when Dave Winey, who rushed for 89 yards on 14 attempts, ran 60 yards

to the Salem 16.

A PENALTY gave Farmington a first down at the 8, but quarterback Chris Schmidt, who was 4-of-14 passing for 59 yards, was sacked for a 13-yard loss and had a pass picked off.

"I call the plays, so I guess I have to take responsibility," Milhizer said. "I tried to get too cute and should have stayed with what we do there."

"I feel strongly, if we had scored there, it would have got us going."

Mosheimer said he didn't think the Rocks took Farmington lightly, not with the chance to attain their preseason goal of improving on last year's 6-3 record.

"That should be incentive," he said. "We don't have the championship incentive, but we have a chance to be 7-2 if we win our next two games. We weren't expected to do that after graduating all those seniors."

Hawks rout Churchill; Glenn rematch up next

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Livonia Churchill football coach Herb Osterland wanted to talk about that part of Farmington Harrison's game nobody talks about.

"You know what's really amazing about them is their defense," said Osterland after the Hawks dominated host Churchill 45-0 Friday night. Harrison's defense has been as impressive as its much-heralded offense, allowing only 40 points in its first seven games and posting four shutouts.

The Hawks, who completed their five-game sweep of the Western Division and are 7-0 overall, limited the Chargers to a net rushing total of minus-4 yards and one first down while the first-team unit was on the field.

"It's really hard to establish any ground game," Osterland said. "And, without any ground game, you don't have field position. Without field position, pretty soon they're inside your 50 and they score."

THAT WAS THE first-half scenario Friday as the Hawks took a 21-0 halftime lead on two touchdown passes by Mill Coleman and a scoring run by him.

Harrison's scoring drives started at the Churchill 36, 45 and 19 — the latter set up by Chad Burgess' 31-yard punt return — and the Hawks needed just four, six and three plays, respectively, to score.

Coleman passed 13 and 4 yards to Tim Horton and fullback Scott Nichols and later ran 7 yards around end on the bootleg.

"Our plan was to simply move the ball enough to get some first downs," Osterland said. "Then, if we had to kick it away, we wouldn't be giving up field position."

While the Hawks foiled that plan in the first half, it was special teams play that finalized the outcome.

Harrison's Bryan Wauldron returned the second-half kickoff 90 yards for a TD and later ran back a punt 47 yards for another.



'This may sound like a crazy statement, but I think our kids played extremely well on defense, considering the caliber of team Harrison has. We were not embarrassed.'

— Herb Osterland
Churchill football coach

"THERE WAS A huge hole; I couldn't believe it," said Wauldron, who finished with 203 yards in all-purpose yardage, of the punt return. "That's the first time I've made a return, period. Todd Lichtman was hurt, and I was the backup."

Sieve Hill booted a 36-yard field goal in between Wauldron's run-backs and the Hawks added a late TD following a Churchill fumble at its own 28 with 1:50 to play. Blazo Sarcevic scooped up the loose ball and rambled 20 yards, and Rob MacDonald ran 7 yards on first down for the score.

Without Wauldron's exploits and the late TD, the Churchill defense, Osterland thought, acquitted itself rather well. To their credit, the Chargers probably did the best job to date of defusing the Harrison passing attack.

"This may sound like a crazy statement, but I think our kids played extremely well on defense, considering the caliber of team Harrison has," he said. "We were not embarrassed."

The Hawks didn't burn Churchill with big passing plays as they have other teams, and Coleman had only 99 yards passing — a small sum for

him. He was 7-of-16 for 95 yards in the first half and completed eight of 20 passes overall.

"WE HAD TROUBLE getting our guys open," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "They played very good pass defense on us, and we had trouble getting on track."

"But I thought our tailbacks pounded in there real well, the special teams played well and the defense played great."

The Hawks countered with 168 yards on the ground, and Matt Conley, playing his second game after being hurt in the season opener, looked strong at tailback as he gained 81 yards on 12 carries. Joe George added 42.

The Chargers, 1-4 in the division and 2-5 overall, had 34 total yards. Andy Sapenzia rushed for 39 yards on 11 attempts, and Eric Olson was 2-of-12 passing.

Harrison, which qualified for the Class B playoffs with Friday's victory, will have a rematch with Lakes Division winner Westland John Glenn for the league title at 1 p.m. Saturday at Harrison. The Rockets beat Harrison 14-6 in the Western Lakes Activities Association championship game last year.

"I can't even enjoy this one?" Herrington quipped when asked about his next game. "I know it will be a war."

THE HAWKS, who outscored their division foes 218-7, had no trouble winning their seventh straight Western crown this year.

"I can't see it as being good or bad for us," Herrington said. "We got to play our kids for three quarters to night, and I think they'll be ready. We really haven't been tested, but they know we have a tough game coming up."

Six-foot-6, 232-pound senior Dale Katz, a two-way lineman, was eager for the showdown with Glenn as of the conclusion of Friday's game. "They beat us last year and we want back," he said.

Rockets outduel North

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Raiders, however, failed to convert the extra point, but still held an early 6-0 lead.

"I was worried because we hadn't been behind all year," said Glenn coach Chuck Gordon of the first-quarter score. "And I didn't know how we'd react. And they had the ball a long time to boot."

By the second quarter, Glenn began to put things in full throttle, overcoming a clipping penalty on an ill-fated 57-yard punt return by Tom Luston.

The Rockets drove 69 yards in eight plays, capped by Stover's 11-yard TD pass to Jeff Elkins. Wes Taylor added the extra point with 2:46 left to give Glenn a 7-6 halftime lead.

"After the TD was called back we showed great poise," said the Glenn coach. "Nobody got upset, we just went back to work."

In the third quarter, Glenn's defense — led by its front three of Andre Dixon, 157-pound Sam Weddington and Tom Kessler — began forcing Filipovich out of the pocket with regularity. (The North quarterback was sacked twice on the night.)

"OUR DOWN THREE (lineman) are fairly quick," Gordon said, "and

football

they play hard. It was nothing special, nothing different. They just played hard."

Helped by a pass interference penalty, putting the ball on the Raiders' 15, Glenn made it 14-6 with 5:42 left in the third quarter on a 7-yard loft from Stover to Greg Anderson.

The Rockets added some insurance early in the fourth period as Stover and Anderson hooked up again on a 7-yard TD play.

North was never able to mount a serious threat the rest of the way. "They just hammered us," O'Leary said of Glenn. "They were more physical than we were. And we didn't play smart. They ran some slants, some different angles at our tackles, and it threw us off, Glenn every bit as good as they say."

The final statistical summary also told the story.

Hawk swimmers win

Farmington Harrison improved to 5-5 in dual meets Thursday, winning a Western Lakes Activities Association swimming meet against Westland John Glenn. Danielle King was a double winner for the host Hawks, claiming titles in both the 200-yard freestyle (2:21.49) and backstroke (1:15.6).

Harrison started the meet in fine fashion, winning the medley relay in 2:11.47. Members of the winning team were Tracey Krause, Meredith Terish, Jill Marany and Michelle Doelker.

The Hawks also had three other individual winners, including Elaine Trager, who compiled 173.1 points in the diving competition. Krause won the butterfly in 1:31.0 and Kelly Marany the 500 freestyle in 8:18.0.

MERCY 48, SHIRAZE 38: The Marlins began defense of their Catholic League swimming championships Wednesday, defeating visiting Holy Oak Shore 48-35. Mercy won five of the 11 events, but depth was the difference for the Marlins, now 3-2 in dual meets.

Mercy won the medley and freestyle relays. Members of the medley team that posted a 1:57.7 time included Katie Westbill, Katie Kolpner, Lis DeMattia and Mary Queen.

The freestyle unit of Polly Tenita, Karen Neyer, Becky Wiquist and Michelle McCalliey captured first place in 3:35.8.

Mercy had three individual winners: Kolpner in the 50 freestyle (26.94), DeMattia in the butterfly (1:02.17) and Cindy Grush in the breaststroke (1:15.23).

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