

Power vs. power in Glenn, CC battle

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

It's the first-ever meeting between Redford Catholic Central and Westland John Glenn in football, but the way the two teams approach the game, it's safe to say they've been keeping an eye on each other for quite a long time.

Saturday's Region III showdown pits the No. 1-ranked Shamrocks (10-0) against the host Rockets (9-1) in a game for area bragging rights.

Although strangers, the two schools have a lot in common.

Consider these items:

- Both coaches prefer to play power football and throw only on occasion.
- CC has been to the playoffs four times, winning the 1979 Class A crown and finishing second last year, while Glenn has made three appearances in last four years, including a heartbreaking 6-3 loss in the 1986 semifinals to Muskegon.
- Both teams are physically fit for Saturday and noted for being physically strong.
- Both coaches are highly organized and respect each other's programs.

Glenn coach Chuck Gordon, meanwhile, is hoping his team will not suffer another embarrassment like the 45-7 drubbing three weeks ago against another No. 1 team, Class B title contender Farmington Harrison.

"We might be a power team, but they (CC) are powerful," Gordon said. "You have to realize that CC may be the best team that we've ever played at Glenn. They're so much bigger and stronger than we are. It's going to be tough going toe to toe. Once they get the ball they'll try and jam it at us with that big line with that big back (Lee Krueger). They're a different team than Harrison. Harrison has a little extra flair on offense. Scott Hancher (CC's quarterback) can throw it, but they just assume run it down your throat."

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The homefield advantage is also in Glenn's favor.

"The familiar surroundings will help," Mach said. "But in the playoffs you have to come and play, no matter what the conditions or weather is like."

The Shamrocks come into the game at full strength, something Mach attributes to the team's off-season conditioning work.

"We've played 23 games in the last two years with no serious injuries," Mach said. "We do a good job in the off-season of getting our kids physically able to play. We work out before school starts and during the summer we open up the weight room three nights a week. That's a big part of avoiding injuries. We also lift two times a week during the season to maintain our strength."

Mach said the addition of trainer

Jeff Lomber has improved the team's performance.

"This year it's a lot easier dealing with the injuries we did have," said the CC coach. "It's worked out well for us. We save 15 to 20 hours on our coaching staff so they can concentrate on football."

ONE PLAYER WHO has benefited from the off-season work is center-linebacker Pat McHale, a 5-foot-10, 190-pound senior. He is one of the Shamrocks' unused players.

"He's our second leading tackler and he hasn't had a bad snap all year," said Mach. "He gotten better at both positions as the season went along. He's a tough football player, a smart football player. He is great at handling the nose man."

Glenn, meanwhile, will counter with Dixon, a 6-2, 210-pound battering ram who is going both ways.

Dixon played on the JV squad last year after transferring. He's been starting all year at fullback and has moved into the defensive line on a regular basis during the latter stages of the season.

"We felt he was a player, even when he was on the JV team," Gordon said.

Glenn's interior front is nothing to kick sand at with the likes of junior John Hodor (6-2, 175), Tom Kessler (5-8, 185), Dan Croft (6-0, 177), Derek Tharp (6-4, 201) and Kraig Kuban (6-0, 171).

The linebackers are Satterlee (6-2, 210) and Mark Johnston (6-2, 211).

As Lee Krueger is to CC, Satterlee (nearly 1,200 yards) is to Glenn.

Both are power runners, playing on power teams.

Get there early to find a seat. Game time is 1:30 p.m.

Falcons beaten by Churchill

Junior forward Jenny Willems poured in 19 points and added 10 rebounds Tuesday, leading host Livonia Churchill to a 55-48 win over Farmington Hills in a Western Lakes girls basketball consolation game.

Churchill (5-13) erased a 26-17 halftime deficit with an 18-7 surge in the third quarter. The Chargers outscored Farmington (5-13) 20-15 in the final period.

"Our full-court press bothered them in the second half," said Churchill coach Dave Van Wagoner. "We executed well offensively, but the defense is what got us going."

Aylisa Belaire added 11 points and five assists, while JoAnn Atkin added 10 points for the winners.

Erika Hatcher and Melissa Tisdale tallied 15 and 13 points, respectively, for the Falcons.

STEVENSON 46, HARRISON 33: Livonia Stevenson (3-16) brought its modest winning streak to two Tuesday, as Jessann Martin's 11 points sparked the Spartans to a WIAA consolation win at Farmington Harrison (0-18).

Jeanne Magoulick added eight points and eight rebounds, while Laura Zatorski added seven points. Both are sophomore guards. Sherri Jahns contributed four of four from the free throw line.

Darcy Pini of Harrison paced all scorers with 17 points.

MERCY 82, STAR OF SEA 21: It was no contest Tuesday as host Farmington Hills Mercy routed undermanned Grosse Pointe Star of the Sea.

The Tunas (2-11) were canned by the end of one quarter as Mercy (6-12) jumped out to an 18-4 advantage. Junior center Lee Albrecht scored 16 points for the Marlins, while Jenny Jenny added 14.

Clinton also added a school-record 11 assists, tying the mark held by Denise Basford and Lisa Morris.

Junior forward Joanne Stephens and senior forward Pam Thompson each chipped in with 10 points for Mercy.

All 10 players scored and the Marlins shot over 50 percent.

Hawks enjoy big season

The Under-19 Michigan Hawks girls soccer team posted a 10-0 record this fall, winning its fourth-straight Little Caesars "Nitch Division" outdoor championship.

During that streak, the Hawks were 33-14 overall. Brooke Gillespie of Troy recorded nine shutouts throughout the campaign, surrendering only one goal while the Hawks scored 45.

Earlier this fall, the Hawks captured their third consecutive MSYSA state title. They also won the Wolverine Tournament, the Bluewater Invitational, the National Invitational and the Omega Labor Day Shootout.

Team members are Raitaka Litkewicz, Margaret Kopmeyer (Bloomfield Hills); Shannon Meath (Canton); Lisa Yderstad, Cacerillon Thomas, Susan Gibson, Carrie Maier, Jennifer Mearns and Amy Trunk (Farmington); Erin Morgan and Julie Stabick (Plymouth); and Patty Boyle, Bonnie Boyle, Liz Brooks and Jacquie Silgari (Troy).

Paul Dugan has coached the team to six state championships and eight straight league titles. Mike Yderstad is the manager and Ralph Gibson is the trainer.

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