

Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312



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56 points! Hawks roll over Central



RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

Roy Granger, a sophomore wide receiver, returned the opening kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown and started Harrison on its way to a 56-0 romp.

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Everybody knows about quarterback Mill Coleman, but coach John Herrington wants people to realize Farmington Hills Harrison has some other good football players, too.

"Mill did a good job," said Herrington after the Hawks trounced visiting Walled Lake Central 56-0 Saturday, "but the others are coming up to his level."

"We'd like to get some recognition for the other kids. Everybody talks about Mill, but it's a pretty good football team."

The Hawks demonstrated that in a big way against Central. All 45 players on the Harrison roster got a chance to play, and many used the opportunity for their gain.

But it would not be a typical Hawk game without a contribution from Coleman, who passed for 178 yards and two touchdowns before he and the other Harrison regulars retired for most of the second half.

"IT WAS KINDA refreshing, coming off a tough game," Coleman said, referring to the 38-14 win over Saginaw Arthur Hill in the opener.

Actually, Week No. 2 of the 1989 campaign was reminiscent of many games a year ago when the Hawks dominated every foe after the first game and rolled to the Class B title.

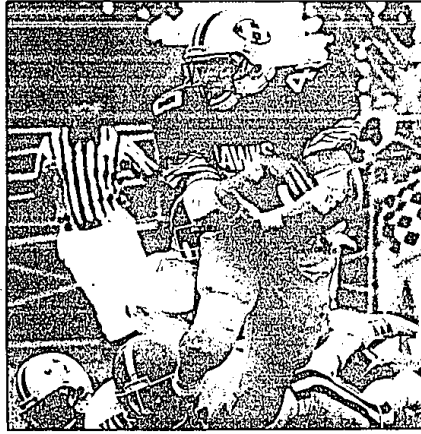
Harrison (2-0) is ranked No. 1 again, but nobody will speculate if that will be the case again this fall.

"I can't say until it happens," fullback/defensive end Joe George said. "If we go all the way, then you can interview me after that."

Coleman, who was 8-of-10 passing and rushed for a 24-yard touchdown to begin the scoring, was talking about what the Hawks can do better despite what seemed a flawless afternoon for them.

"We had a few penalties that held us back in the second quarter," Coleman said. "We're trying to get all the links on it and make things run smoothly."

Central coach Gary Toz, who saw



RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

Matt Conley rushed for 65 yards and a touchdown as the No. 1-rated Hawks won their second straight game.

his Vikings (1-1) held to 42 yards rushing and 98 in total offense, wishes Harrison's performance had been so deficient.

CENTRAL WAS placed at an immediate disadvantage when Harrison sophomore Roy Granger returned the opening kickoff 93 yards for a TD.

The Hawks then scored on their first two possessions — Coleman's run on which he just managed to make contact with the corner pylon and his 45-yard pass to Mike Saputo and Steve Hill plunged 1 yard for a 28-0 half-time lead.

"They're a step above everybody

else," Toz said. "Their talent is far above anything I've ever seen, and I spent 11 years in the Catholic League."

"Our kids worked hard and will get better, but we weren't going to win this one. I don't think our kids were in awe (of Harrison). They just didn't realize how good they are."

Things only got worse in the second half when the Hawks converted fumble recoveries by Mike Dombrowski and Hill and Ankaw Ziyad's pass interception — the first turnover occurring on the second-half kickoff and the next two on Central's first possessions.

Matt Conley, who led the Hawks

with 65 yards rushing on 11 carries, scored on a 3-yard run and Coleman passed 85 yards on first down to Jon Schaeffer, making the score 42-0 with 9:06 left in the third quarter when Herrington sent the reserves in to stay.

"IT KINDA SPOILS the fans when we win by such a big margin," Coleman said, "but I'll take it any Friday or Saturday."

Back-up fullback and starting noseguard Gary Devine ran 18 yards for the TD following the third turnover, and sophomore Andy Fitzpatrick passed 7 yards to Chris Sarsfield to complete the scoring early in the fourth quarter.

Devine, one of the subs who stood out, had 48 yards on nine attempts, and a total of 13 running backs carried the ball for Harrison. Jeff Beutner, Scott Legas and Junior Andy Smith, who is expected to battle Fitzpatrick for Coleman's job next year, also ran well when given the opportunity.

Herrington also was pleased by the play of Scott Ratsos in his first start at safety. He replaced Coleman, who played there during most of the Arthur Hill game. Saputo and Greg Flisopnick had three receptions apiece for 87 and 65 yards.

Joe Gough had 23 yards rushing on 15 carries to lead Central, and quarterback Lawrence Kerver, replacing injured starter Mark Tataruck, was 4-of-18 passing for 54 yards.

Tataruck, who suffered a cracked bone in his left shoulder in the season opener, is expected to play Friday when the Vikings visit Livonia Stevenson.

"We'll be competitive against the rest of the league, which makes it kinda hard to believe we could get beat 56-0," Toz said. "If someone beats the Hawks, it will be somebody like Churchill the year they were 1-6, because they're going to knock it up for the big teams. They'll be too prepared for the good teams."

Cowen's kicks boost Raiders past Churchill

The kicking of Mike Cowen proved to be the difference Friday as North Farmington held off Livonia Churchill 12-7 in a game delayed nearly 75 minutes by thunderstorms.

Cowen booted field goals in the first and second quarters, and teammate Jon Kraus scored on a 21-yard run in the third quarter to make the North advantage stand up. (The Raiders missed on the two-point conversion.)

John Low also played a key role in the victory, intercepting a pair of passes. His initial pickoff led to Cowen's first field goal.

"THE DIFFERENCE in the game is they (North) were able to maintain field position," Churchill coach Herb Osterland said. "Two of (Cowen's) kickoffs went into the end zone, and the other two were right near the goal line. We were pinned in our end a lot."

Helped by a North unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, Churchill exited the lead to 12-7 in the third period when fullback Andy Saplenza capped a 65-yard drive on a 1-yard TD run. Mike Spaccarotella kicked the extra point.

But the Chargers (0-2), who seemingly had the momentum going, ran out of gas down the stretch as North (2-0) held on for the win.

"AT TIMES we moved the ball, but not consistently," Osterland said. "It was a very long night, and the field conditions were not suitable. This is the second time in as many years we've gone through this kind of weather."

Mike Brooks, who started at quarterback for the Chargers, rushed for 64 yards in 16 carries, while Brad Hirschman led North with 58 yards in 11 carries.

The two teams combined for just 19 yards passing, 15 by North.

Falcons 2nd victim of perfect Chiefs

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

"When was the last time . . ."

"Three years ago," Plymouth Canton coach Bob Khoenle responded. "Khoenle knew the question before it was asked. The last time the Chiefs began a football season 2-0 was 1986."

Canton, still looking for its first winning season, is enjoying one of its finest starts and is unbeaten after two games once again, shutting out visiting Farmington 28-0 Saturday night.

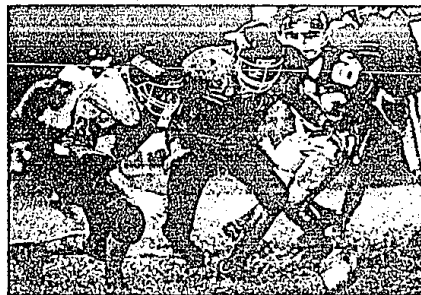
The game was to have been played Friday night, but the threat of lightning combined with severe thunderstorms forced its postponement. The contest resumed Saturday with the Chiefs leading 7-0 in the first quarter.

Khoenle thought the one-day delay was actually a benefit to his team.

"I DON'T think we were ready to play football last night," he said. "We beat Monroe (in the opener), and I don't think the kids had come back to earth yet."

"We got on the kids and gave them hell before the game, and I think that had a little effect."

Canton scored the second time it had the ball and led 21-0 at halftime. Junior quarterback Karl Wukie, who passed 13 yards to Scott Hanna for a touchdown Friday, hit Jason Eby on an 8-yard loopy pass, and Jason



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Farmington players Sean Murray (left) and Eric Miller scramble to cover a loose football Saturday night against Canton.

Riggs darted 12 yards up the middle for the second TD.

The Chiefs finished the scoring midway in the third quarter, following the first of two pass interceptions by Dave Cesario. Canton got possession at the Falcon 23-yard line, and Wukie, after the drive stalled at the 14, carried on three straight plays and scored on a 1-yard sneak.

The weather was no better Saturday

night, and a downpour before and during the first half turned the field into a mud puddle.

While Wukie was able to pass well enough — he was 4-of-7 for 63 yards — and the Chiefs running with success, Farmington (0-2) had trouble holding onto the slippery ball. Numerous bobbles and turnovers stunted the Falcon offense, and Farmington was limited to 8 yards rushing and 21 in total offense.

"(The weather) was no help, but it's the same weather for both teams," Farmington coach Rick Millhizer said. "There's no reason we can't hold on to the ball and other teams can."

"WE'RE GIVING games away. We had five turnovers last week and five tonight. We have to work on eliminating mistakes and stop beating ourselves."

After the Chiefs took a 28-0 lead at 7:51 in the third, Khoenle sent in the reserves, and Eric Howell quarterbacked the team for the duration. Mike Wougamon and Chris James replaced the Riggs brothers — Jason and Brian — who ran so impressively despite the slip in the first half. Jason was the leading rusher with 50 yards on 10 carries.

The 2-0 start has given the Chiefs, who are working on a three-game win streak including their defeat of Plymouth Salem at the end of last season, added confidence, Khoenle said.

"I think we can play with just about anybody in our league," he said. "We have in the past. Just because we haven't won doesn't mean we haven't been competitive."

"We do the best we can. So far the results have been good, and I think we're getting better all the time."

"We've got some kids who can make the big plays because of their God-given ability."

Doran, Duthie brighten North outlook

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

With two of Observerland's finest in Kerry Doran and Christie Duthie, North Farmington can point toward another fine year in girls swimming.

Doran, a junior and two-time All-America, and Duthie, a senior tri-captain, played major roles in the Raiders finishing sixth in the state last year.

Doran, who earned national recognition in the 200-yard individual medley, placed third in that event and fifth in the breaststroke at the Class A meet. Duthie, who will captain the team along with freestyler Beth Smith and diver Michelle Starrs, was ninth in the butterfly and 21st in the 200 freestyle.

Doran and Duthie also teamed with Laurie Oswald and junior Kristina

celko to capture fourth place in the freestyle relay at state and earn All-Observer honors.

"We're at least as strong as last year," North coach Pat Duthie said, "but you don't know what everyone else is going to have. (Pat Duthie is Christie Duthie's and Junior swimmer Amy Duthie's dad.)"

"Unfortunately, there's only one week this year between the league and state meets. We've got kids who are going to be pointing to the state meet, and it's hard to get up and be sharp two weeks in a row."

The Raiders, who were 9-1 in dual meets and won the Lakes Division title, were fourth in the always-tough Western Lakes Activities Association after winning it two years ago. North, as evidenced by its strong showing in the state meet, was probably the best fourth-place

swimming

team in the state.

"Doing well in that league is a pretty prestigious thing," Duthie said. "You're not doing too bad if you're in the top three or four in our league."

Laurie Oswald, the All-Observer choice in the 100 freestyle and member of the freestyle relay, was a major graduation loss. The Raiders also lost Nancy Westerholt, Josie Komer and Cady Carnko, who moved to Denver. The Wesselman sisters, Karen and Ellen, returned to Germany.

[Doran, who holds school records in the IM and butterfly, swam 2:03.66

in the IM at state and also can help North in the 100 and 200 freestyles and the breaststroke.

Christie Duthie posted her best times last season in the state meet, swimming 1:00.38 in the butterfly and 1:58.51 in the 200 freestyle.

"(Doran) should repeat as an All-America in the IM," Duthie said. "She went a little faster in the winter than she did in the high school season. She may well be the best 400 IM'er in the state, but we don't swim that in high school."

The Raiders also return Celko, an other all-area swimmer, juniors Amy Duthie, Julianne Markey, Ann Schwartzberg and Jennifer Wagner and sophomores Teri Wolf, Colleen Harrison and Kelly Kernshaw.

All of the juniors are freestylers, with Markey, also swimming the IM and backstroke. Wolf and

Schwartzberg swim the breaststroke, and Harrison and Kernshaw are freestyle sprinters.

The breaststroke might be North's deepest event, according to Duthie. Swimmer was among the top six in the state, freshman Anna Palmer, is a junior national qualifier in long-course swimming and Wolf can swim the event, too.

In addition to Palmer, first-year swimmers include sophomore Karis Kranz, who moved back to Farmington Hills from Dayton, and freshman Carrie Worthen and Emily Shively.

Kranz, who can swim a sub two-minute 200 freestyle like Duthie and Doran, will count on heavily, especially in the relays. In those three,



Kerry Doran
All-America swimmer