

## Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2132



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(F)10

## Playoff rematch

## Riverview eyes revenge against Hawks

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

Contrary to popular belief, Riverview football coach Don Lessner did not throw away last year's game film that showed his team getting pounded by Farmington Hills Harrison.

Although he doesn't get a kick out of watching the 35-0 loss to Harrison in the second round of the Class B state playoffs, studying the film might actually benefit Lessner, the 23-year head coach. Harrison quarterback Mill Coleman played the leading role in last year's game, and he has returned with another strong supporting cast.

In short, not much has changed at Harrison. No. 1-ranked Harrison (9-0 overall), the defending state champion, hosts Riverview (8-1) at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

"IT'S BENEFICIAL to watch (last year's game film), Lessner said. "I remember we could not move the ball on them; they shut us out. And Coleman had a great game — of course he has a great game against everyone."

"I don't think there's any better player in the state. Just look at his statistics, (Matt) Conley is an excellent runner, too. And that guy (placekicker Steve Hill) can kick the ball forever." Meanwhile, the personnel at Riverview has changed dramatically. The Pirates lost 24 seniors off a team that went 10-1 and was state-ranked, but they've managed to stay successful this fall by winning the Huron League at 6-1.

Monroe Jefferson, a Huron League opponent, handed the Pirates their only loss, 38-20. "They run the same plays, the same defense and are well-coached," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "They're not as big as last year, though."

Coleman is suffering from tendinitis in his Achilles tendon, but he took snaps Tuesday in practice and it won't limit his playing time at quarterback Saturday, Herrington said. Coleman normally punts for the Hawks (who don't normally punt), but because of the tendinitis, Hill will handle those duties.

"IT'S NOTHING big," said Coleman, who first noticed the pain a week ago. "It's just something I have to lie down and put a little heat on. I still can run fine."

The game will mark the last home appearance for Coleman, the only high school quarterback in Michigan to throw for more than 6,000 yards in a career.

"I want to play my last game here and make it a good one on this field," Coleman said. "We just have to take it one game at a time. Once you get in the playoffs, all the teams are pretty good."

Riverview runs out of a multiple offense, and the quarterback is junior Scott Czopek. Czopek is listed at 5-foot-10, one inch taller than Coleman, and that might be the only advantage he has over his counterpart.

Czopek has completed only 27 of 63 passes for

345 yards and one touchdown, and he's gained just 43 yards in 17 carries.

His first job is to hand the ball off to running backs Kevin Jenkins, Jason Turcotte and John Alley. The Pirates have averaged almost 200 yards rushing per game and Jenkins has been the leading ground gainer, amassing about 800 yards.

THE PIRATES are young on the offensive line where guard Brian Whaley and center Brad Luther are the only senior starters. Junior tackles Jason Milanovich and Aram Zidigian are the biggest linemen, each weighing in at about 225 pounds.

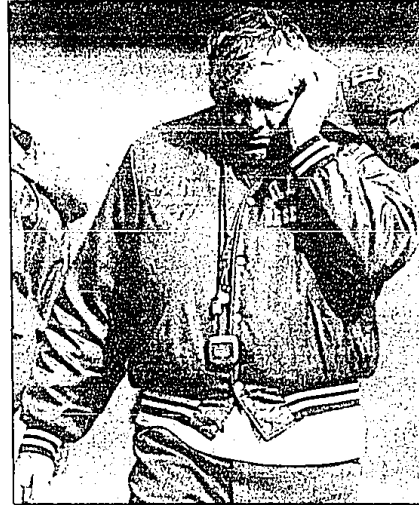
On paper, the Pirates don't stand a chance. Of course, the game's not played on paper.

"We're not as talented as last year," Lessner said. "We were 10-0, state-ranked. It's just one of those things, you know. I don't think there's any team in the state, except maybe (Birmingham) Brother Rice that can match up with Harrison. There are few that can give them a good game."

Riverview's 5-2 defense is led by inside linebackers Mike Orr and Turcotte. Orr, a 6-4, 195-pound senior, leads the Pirates with 72 tackles and the best down lineman is tackle Chris Karaboyas.

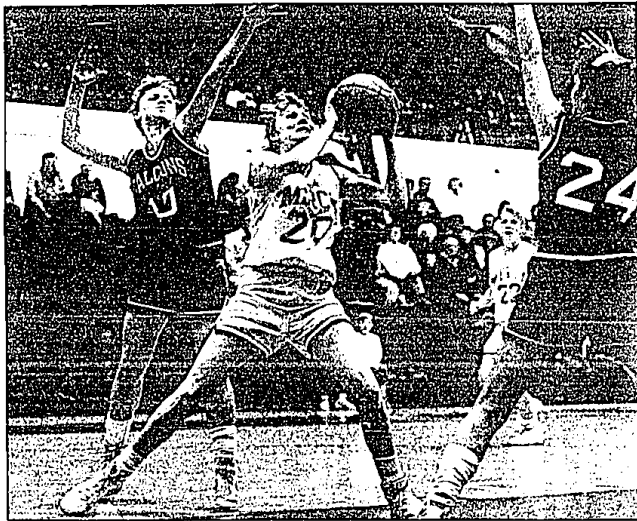
They'll have to find a way to limit the Hawks, who have many weapons and have outscored their nine opponents, 261-10.

Seven players have caught passes from Coleman; the leading receiver is Joe George, who has caught 22.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Coach John Herrington can't have too many worries; his Farmington Hills Harrison team is a heavy favorite to repeat as Class B football champs when the playoffs start Saturday.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Carrie Walton, sandwiched between Divine Child defenders Jennifer Marquette (10) and Christy Canavan (24), goes to the basket during a 14-point effort Wednesday. Mercy lost the Catholic League semifinal game 49-32.

## Bannon, Falcons bury Mercy in league semis

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

Shawn Bannon made life miserable Wednesday for Farmington Hills Mercy in the semifinals of the Catholic League A-B Division girls basketball playoffs.

The senior guard poured in a game-high 23 points, leading Dearborn Divine Child (16-2) past the Marlins, 49-32, in the first game of a double-header at the University of Detroit's Calhoun Hall.

"She did a nice job of penetrating to the basket," said coach Nancy Sullivan of her star player. "She's very creative with the basketball and we try to set her up as much as possible. Even at off guard she makes things happen because she's so quick."

Christy Canavan added 10 points for the winners.

Carrie Walton was the only Mercy player in double figures with 14.

## basketball

the third quarter to take a 10-point advantage.

Mercy went scoreless for five minutes and 45 seconds before Carrie Walton broke the ice on a short jumper with 2:15 left in the period. (Mercy had only six points in the quarter.)

"Our goal was to establish the pace and neutralize their fast pace," said Mercy coach Larry Baker, whose team dropped to 10-8 overall. "I thought we were successful at that in the first half. The difference is that they scored more easy baskets, and Bannon scored off a couple of breakaways."

Mercy could generate little offense on the night, as Walton was the only consistent scoring threat.

MERCY'S FOUR other starters combined for only eight points.

"The third quarter just killed us," said Baker of the scoring drought. "We felt good going in at halftime. We felt we had a good game plan and we were pleased with our half-court defense, but we just didn't shoot well."

The Falcons pulled away in the final quarter. Bannon's driving layup at 3:54, followed a steal and a layup only 17 seconds later 3:37 increased the DC lead to 14, 40-26.

The Falcons ended up outscoring Mercy 19-10 in the final quarter.

"They're quick and a tough team to get the ball inside against," Baker said. "When you don't score, your mistakes get magnified. By the end of the game you get frustrated and you start fouling."

SULLIVAN WAS happy with the way her team finished the game after a slow first half.

"We knew at halftime we could raise our level offensively and defensively a notch or two," she said. "There were no real major adjustments at halftime."

"Mercy's a very deliberate team and we were afraid that if they got the lead, they'd be even more deliberate. We wanted to up-tempo as much as we could."

Thanks to Bannon, the Falcons accomplished their mission and will play in Sunday's championship final against defending champion Birmingham Marian.

The Marlins scored an impressive 80-47 victory over Livonia Ladywood in the other semifinal. (Game time is 6 p.m. at Calhoun.)

## Kiel's 1st-place regional finish carries Falcons to state meet

By C.J. Rieck  
staff writer

John Barrett figured his Farmington girls cross country team "had a lock on second place no matter what" at Saturday's Class A regional at Marshbank Park.

Barrett's belief proved right enough, but — if he said the same thing to Redford Union coach Bob Ouellette — his optimism might have been tempered. West Bloomfield captured the regional team title easily enough, scoring 31 points. After that, though, it got tight. Only three teams could qualify for Saturday's state meet at IMA-Brookwood Golf Course in Flint.

And only nine points separated the next three teams. Farmington was second with 102, followed by Plymouth Canton, which edged Ouellette's RU team for third place, 107 to 112. Livonia Stevenson was fifth with 140, Bloomfield Hills Andover was sixth with 179 and Livonia Franklin took seventh with 186.

Other Observer-area teams in the 17-team region were Plymouth Salem, ninth (260); North Farmington, 10th (285); Farmington Hills Mercy, 12th (312); Livonia Churchill, 13th (357); Westland John Glenn, 15th (408); and Livonia Ladywood, 17th (452).

THE INDIVIDUAL champion was Farmington senior Jennifer Kiel in 19:30. Her season-long nemesis, North Farmington senior Lisa Rives, was right behind in second in 19:35.

## girls cross country

Other top-finishers from the Observer area included Canton's Amy Smith, fifth (20:39); Stevenson's Tracy Clark, sixth (20:43); and RU's Tracy James, 12th.

Still, who didn't finish may have had as big an impact. RU's Lisa Mockeridge told her coach she was feeling ill just an hour before the race. Ouellette wanted to pull her out, but she convinced him she was well enough to run.

Ouellette said he would allow it, but he was going to stand at the one-mile marker on the 5,000-meter course and take her out if he thought her condition was worsening.

"She never made it that far," said Ouellette. Mockeridge, the Panthers' second-best runner, dropped out of the race early, and that quite likely cost RU a spot among the top three teams in the region. Ouellette said Tuesday Mockeridge possibly was afflicted with mononucleosis.

BUT THE RU coach would not use Mockeridge's illness as an excuse. "Everybody has problems," he said.

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