

Harrison, Falcons have key division grid tests

By Dan O'Meara
and Brad Emmons
staff writers

Redford Catholic Central just played (and won) the biggest game of the young 1991 football season and must get ready for another one.

At this point in time, it's the most important game yet for the Shamrocks, who whipped Detroit Martin Luther King 34-6 in a rematch of last year's Class AA championship game.

In a second straight battle of unbeaten (3-0) and state-ranked teams, CC (No. 4 in AA) will host Warren DeLaSalle (No. 10 in AA) in the Central Division opener for both at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Another big game has Plymouth Salem traveling to Westland Jobs Glen for a key Lakes Division clash Friday night in the Western Lakes Activities Association. In the weekly prediction, O'Meara has given sports editor Dan O'Meara an 11-4 lead, improving to 34-12 overall. Brad Emmons was 9-6 and stands 20-16 for the season.

Despite the possibility of different opinions on many of this week's games, there aren't too many disagreements between the Observer writers.

An explanation of how the prediction process works might be helpful to the readers' understanding. Before anything is put in type, each editor makes his selections without prior knowledge of the other's choices. The editor in charge of writing that week takes both lists and compares the story.

Thus, the respective picks are unbiased by the other's opinion, and the integrity of the contest is maintained. Unfortunately for the readers who like a little controversy, a level playing field sometimes produces less and more of it.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

(all 7:30 p.m. unless noted)
Red, Thurston at Taylor Center, 4 p.m.: The Eagles (0-3) are looking for their first win and could find it at Taylor Center (1-2) earned its first win last week, defeating Melvindale 19-7. Thurston has played the toughest schedule, facing undefeated teams from Dearborn Heights in its last two games, defeating Class B champion Redford and Greenwood. Taylor Kennedy got its first win last week against Dearborn, 21-14. PICKS: The Eagles are favored again.

Lk, Claremontville at Lutheran West, 7 p.m.: Claremontville is searching for victory No. 1, as the Trojans have scored only one touchdown, and that was in their week ago game against St. Clement. Lutheran West is 2-1 but hasn't beaten any powers. After three games were decided by shutouts, Lutheran West is looking to get back on track. Lutheran West is looking to get back on track. Lutheran West is looking to get back on track.

W.L. Western at Lk. Churchill, 7 p.m.: This game could determine which team starts out of the W.L.A.A. Western Division opener. Western was expected to have a possible contender this year but is 1-2 and failed to give mighty Harrison a game last week, losing 37-6. Churchill (0-3) is a part of playoff teams (Dearborn and John Glenn) before nearly knocking off Livonia Franklin last week in a 15-14 loss. PICKS: The

grid predictions

Warriors could pretty face the week.

Lk, Franklin at Northville: Can the Patriots contain Northville quarterback Ryan Hujak, a gifted passer and line runner, 100? Anybody who thought the Mustangs would be edged by graduation after a banner year in 1990 has been proved wrong. Northville lost its opener to unbeaten South Lyon and is 2-0 in the W.L.A.A. Franklin is holding its own and also is 2-1. The Patriots' claim to fame: They beat Lake Orion, which upset Pontiac Northern. PICKS: Franklin can't contain Hujak and the Mustangs.

Phy. Salem at Westland Jobs Glen: The last time Salem played here (1989), the Rocks were downed by an unbeaten team and certain playoff berth when Glenn pulled out a 7-6 victory in the closing seconds. A perfect record is no longer possible and post-season play is unlikely for Salem (1-2), but this game will play a big role in determining the Lakes winner, still. Glenn, the defending division champ, is 3-0 and has everything going for it. This is the third toughest game in a row for the Rocks, who can play the Rocks and keep their own hopes alive. PICKS: With Ted Quastlander and John Ward in the backfield, the Rocks have enough heat in their tanks.

N. Farmington at W.L. Central: The Raiders (2-1) have recovered nicely from their first game loss to Pontiac Northern. That was a valuable lesson. PICKS: The Raiders got a breathing room before next week's showdown with Glenn.

Farm. Harrison at Phy. Canton: Canton (2-1) gave the Hawks (3-0) one of their best games last year at Harrison before losing 21-15. But the Hawks are in current trouble, losing two straight after opening with a win at Monroe. The Hawks (No. 1 in BD) are as strong as ever. Harrison has outstanding backs in John Miller and, in recent years, Aaron Yavarski, Matt Corley and Gary Devine, but Roy Granger might be its best breakout player. The Hawks can still pass, too. Andy Fitzpatrick (8-4, 200) hasn't been compared to Matt Coleman yet, but he is averaging 130-plus yards per game and gives Harrison a big quarterback, something it hasn't had since Vince Enright in 1984. PICKS: The Hawks hammer out a victory.

Woodhaven at Garden City: The host Cougars put one in the win column last week, beating Ypsilanti Lincoln 6-0 in overtime, but Woodhaven hopes to keep Garden City from winning No. 2. The Warriors are unbeaten (3-0) and have their own win streak to worry about. Woodhaven hasn't given up a point in three weeks, not since beating Southeats 15-13 in the opener. The Warriors blanked worst Dearborn Essex Ford 20-0 in their Northville Suburban League opener last week. PICKS: WWII stands for Woodhaven Win No. 2 in the NSL.

Wayne Memorial at Lincoln Park: Wayne, the Wolverine A Conference preseason favorite, put a blamish on the Wayne record (2-1) last week with a 2-1 victory, but the Zebras remain a quality team. Since losing 20-19 to Wayne in the first game, Adam is 2-0 with wins over Temperance Bedford and Alpena. The Raiders also are 2-1, losing to Dearborn

Ford and beating Gibraltar Carlton and Bellevue. PICKS: The Zebras rebound with a win.

Edsel Ford at Redford Union: The Panthers upset Edsel Ford last year and, though it won't be that again, could win this time, too. With two straight wins, RU (2-1) is looking impressive and gaining respect. Since losing to Livonia Stevenson, the Panthers have beaten Waterford Kettering (20-25) and Dearborn (20-17). Ford (0-3) is winless but has played a murderous schedule that included Fordson, Lansing Eastern and Woodhaven. PICKS: RU's defense shuts off the Thunderbolt engine.

Bishop Borgessa vs. O.L.S. St. Mary at Garden City Jr. High: This is one of the games that could easily go either way. Both teams are 1-2 but from this viewpoint are still pretty decent. Bishop Borgessa (1-2) has a pair of unbeaten Class B powers (Kingston and Country Day) before being upset just 14-13 last week. PICKS: Expect a competitive game but St. Mary to win.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

(all 1 p.m. unless noted)

Grosse Pointe, Uppigat at Luth. Westland: This happens to be the other game on which the two teams have the same record. Westland is 2-0 after its 32-20 defeat of Ypsilanti and developing a reputation for being a winner. The Raiders (1-2) haven't enjoyed the same success. They whipped Harper Woods but lost consecutive games to St. Agatha (27-0) and St. Clement (14-7). PICKS: Emmons is convinced the Warriors are for real and will handle Uppigat. O'Meara thinks a tougher schedule favors the

Lk, Stevenson at Farmington: They will be another good test in determining where the host Falcons are in their budding process under coach Benne Carl. Farmington (2-1) has beaten a pair of weaker W.L.A.A. foes, and the Spartans (2-1) represent the next rung in the W.L.A.A. ladder. Stevenson is trying to make some gains and has a good team, too. The Spartans are coming off a 30-13 loss to Glenn after wins over RU and Franklin. Farmington defeated Dearborn Lakes Central 21-0 for its second straight win. PICKS: The Falcons are getting there, but Stevenson still has the edge.

Redford CC vs. Warren DeLaSalle at Claremontville, 2:30 p.m.: It will be CC's size and strength against DL's speed and quickness, according to Platts coach Ross MacDonald. But DL's usually has some help in the backfield, and the Shamrocks have an open-field threat in receiver/trainer Frank Youkam. Don't worry about CC being a lefty when downed by unbeaten King Why? This is CC. The Shamrocks are used to playing big games each week. The Pirates have played a rugged schedule, too. Saginaw (24-18), Lake Orion (14-7) and Ypsilanti (35-18) — all playoff teams in the last two years — if CC can beat King on King's field, how can you not pick the Shamrocks.

SUNDAY'S GAME

Red, St. Agatha vs. A.A. Richard at Ann Arbor Pioneer, 2:30 p.m.: The Apaches (2-0) have gotten away to a fine start, including a 21-7 win Saturday over a much bigger Ontario school. Inconceivable, Richard (1-2) is stopping after last week's 50-6 setback from Dundee. The Fighting Irish lost a shootout to Webberville (47-34) and lost Whitman Lake (29-18). PICKS: St. Agatha begins Catholic League competition with another victory.

Marlins close gap but fall to powerful Maples

Farmington Hills Mercy closed a 24-point deficit but came up short in a contest between state-ranked swim teams Monday, losing to host Birmingham Seaholm 97-89.

The meet was the second in four days against a ranked opponent for the Marlins, who tied No. 2 Ann Arbor Huron 93-83 Thursday. Mercy is rated No. 6 in the Class A coaches pool, Seaholm No. 8.

The Marlins have another big test at 5 p.m. Saturday when they take on top-ranked Ann Arbor Pioneer at Mercy.

Mercy made state cuts Monday in the 200-yard medley relay (1:55.27) with the team of Andrea Hoeftin, Erika Smith, Katie Knipper and Jenny McCormica.

Individuals qualifying for state competition were made by McCormica and Mandy Speer in the backstroke (each with a 1:04 time), Smith in the 100 freestyle (55.18) and Knipper in the breaststroke (1:12).

SMITH WON the 100 and 50 freestyle (25.71) and Knipper the breaststroke. Mercy's 400 freestyle team of Amy Machacek, Katie Scallien, Speer and Smith defeated the Maples with a 3:54.4 time.

"We swam and dove well in sev-

swimming

eral events," Mercy coach Terri Eudy-Teeters said. "Seaholm has a very good team, and we found out some things about racing and diving that will help us continue to improve."

Mercy also had quality swims from Scallien in the 200 freestyle (2:08) and the 500 (5:36), Nancy Harvey in the breaststroke (1:13), Heather Vagella in the 400 freestyle (5:24) and Michelle Welch in the 500 freestyle (5:49). Amy Dombrowski (192 points) was second in diving.

The Marlins managed to tie Huron despite the River Rats winning six of the nine individual events. Mercy overcame a 12-point deficit with four events left.

The teams combined for 12 state cuts. The Marlins opened the meet with a 1:55 cut in the medley relay by Hoeftin, Smith, McCormica and Knipper. Smith, McCormica and Speer made respective cuts in the 100 freestyle, breaststroke and backstroke.

Seal also scored in the 200 and 500 freestyle. Dombrowski and Buckley in diving.

Hoeftin and Welch added important points for the Marlins. Hoeftin went 2:22 in the IM and 5:32 in the 500 freestyle, finishing second in both. Welch swam 2:07 in the 200 freestyle.

"ANDREA SHOWED she is capable of finishing strong when an other racer is chasing her at the finish," Eudy-Teeters said.

The Marlins were first and third in the 200 freestyle relay, beginning their rally late in the meet. Speer, McCormica and Patty Cahill went 1-2-3 in the backstroke, and Knipper and Nancy Harvey went 1-3 in the breaststroke. That gave Mercy a two-point lead with only the 400 freestyle remaining.

The Marlins needed a 1-3 finish to win, 2-3 to tie. Mercy's top relay of Machacek, Hoeftin, Speer and Smith swam a state cut of 3:49 but fell short of beating the Pioneers, who had 1990 state champions Annette Salmen and Kathy Wilcox on their team. Mercy's second relay of Scallien, Beth Minnick, Welch and Colleen Kelly was third with a 3:59 time.

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Spartans win relays

Continued from Page 1

you only lose by two points to Ann Arbor Huron in their pool, that ought to tell you something. These guys are for real."

"I said in the past, some coaches deliberately lose to give the one who wins it the kiss of death," Canton coach Hooker Wellman said. "In this case, Stevenson probably is the best team in our conference. They have so much talent and depth."

Stevenson set one of three records with Jill Knapp, Mandi Falk, Lisa Morrison and Jennifer Knapp winning the 200-yard breaststroke in 2:12.6, more than three seconds faster than what North Farmington's relay swam in 1988. All are sophomores except for senior Jennifer Knapp.

The Spartans also won the 200 butterfly as sophomore Nancy Watson, sophomore Karin Carlisle, junior Holly Palmeri and senior Heather White combined for a 2:00.85 time.

The other records were set by North Farmington in the 400 individual medley (4:28.88) and Churchill in the 200 freestyle (1:42.60) as each school broke its own record. The Raiders set the IM record (4:32.05) in 1988 and Churchill the freestyle standard (1:44.74) last year.

"I was impressed. I thought the whole league was impressive," Olson said.

SALEM WAS competing for the fifth time in nine days but still won the diving, 400 freestyle and 200 medley.

"Three firsts: It's been a long time since we had that many at this meet," Olson said.

"I was exhausted just putting the meets together. (The Salem girls) had to go out and swim them. I was pleased how well they were able to work it."

Hawks lose but gain state-outs

Farmington Hills Harrison had good and bad news Tuesday in its meet with host Northville.

The bad news was a 56-37 loss to the Mustangs, but the good news was several Harrison swimmers made their state-qualifying cuts.

Veronica Forberger won a pair of events for the Hawks, finishing first in the 50-yard freestyle (28.98) and 100 freestyle (58.70).

Stacey Krause won the 200 individual medley and made her state cut (2:25.43), while Elaine Trager won the diving (218.60).

Harrison qualified for the Class B meet in the 200 medley relay (2:02.42) and the 200 freestyle relay (1:50.87).

The medley team consisted of Krause, Dana Dixon, Wendy Letland and Forberger, and Leland, Forberger, Cassie O'Sullivan and Jenny Domino comprised the freestyle team.

Krause also made the cut in the backstroke (1:05.20). Dixon the breaststroke (1:13.95).

Harrison is 0-2 in Western Lakes Activities Association duels.

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