

# Harrison-Rice meeting has playoff atmosphere

By DAN O'MEARA  
Staff Writer

A championship game, a preview of a possible playoff game and three intra-district rivalries highlight the ninth weekend of high school football.

In the first case, Redford Catholic Central will try to repeat as Catholic League champion when it plays Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher at 7 p.m. Sunday in the Silverdome.

The big game Saturday has Birmingham Brother Rice paying a visit to Farmington Hills Harrison Catholic. It is the first time since the newly crowned Western Lakes Activities Association champ.

Traditional season-enders on Friday pit Westland John Glenn against Wayne Memorial, Plymouth Canton against Plymouth Salem and Livonia Stevenson against Livonia Churchill.

In the prediction contest between Observer editors, Brad Emons holds an eight-game lead going into the final round — 94-23 as opposed to 85-31 for Dan O'Meara.

Besides giving coach John Herrington his 200th career victory last week, Harrison did its part to help O'Meara's cause when it upset Glenn in the WLA championship game.

But the Luck of the Irish seems to be running out for O'Meara, if indeed he ever had any this year. He still lost ground by going 9-5 last week while Emons was 10-4.

## FRIDAY GAMES

All games start at 7:30 p.m.

**Liv. Stevenson at Liv. Churchill:** Stevenson's game playoff-bound Northville a battle before losing 14-6 last week. The Spartans still have playoff aspirations of their own in Class AA, but they will get one more chance to win the title with a 7-3 win over Farmington. PICK: The Spartans' rush with their best record since 1987.

**Liv. Franklin at Trenton:** The Patriots won 14-0 a year ago and finished 7-2, but Franklin (1-7) is struggling this year, while the Trojans (5-3) are much improved. At the start of the season, we would have expected the opposite, but Trenton ended a 30-game-plus losing streak and has done well. The Patriots have been unable to win despite quarterback Greg Maple's passing for 1,048 yards. PICK: Emons picks against his alma mater, but O'Meara proves more patriotic.

**Westland Glenn at Wayne:** The Rockets (7-1) want to avoid a repeat of their '92 finish. Glenn was 7-0 but lost its last

## GRID PICKS

two games to Walled Lake Western and Wayne, both of which made the playoffs, while Glenn missed out. The Rockets will qualify this year with two losses, but no team wants to begin post-season play under those circumstances. The Zebras (4-4) have done better than expected but aren't as potent as last year. PICKS: The Rockets send Emons into orbit. O'Meara needs an upset; come on Zebras!

**Ply. Canton vs. Ply. Salem:** OK, this is an odd-numbered year, so Salem (4-4) is going to win, right? The Chiefs (5-3) might defy recent history, but consider this: Since Canton took its first-ever win from the Rockets in 1988, the teams have alternated wins. The Chiefs, who won 21-0 last year, can finish with another three-game winning streak. It is the same Salem team that beat playoff contender Belleville in the first week? PICKS: Emons is ready to sing Hail to the Chiefs, but O'Meara's favorite tune is We Will Rock You.

**Chelsea at Garden City:** This has no doubt been a tough week for the Cougars (4-4), who were beaten by winless Redford Union and must get ready to play undefeated Chelsea. It is the Bulldogs (3-0) have a cheerleader by the name of Clinton? Chelsea won the Southeastern Conference title and has qualified for the Class BB playoffs. PICKS: The Bulldogs have a bite to buck up their bark.

## SATURDAY GAMES

(all games 1 p.m. unless noted)

**Redford Union at Farmington:** These 1-7 teams were at opposite ends of the emotional spectrum last week. RU was at its highest point of the season, and Farmington was at its lowest. The Panthers upset Garden City 21-17 for their first win, and Livonia Churchill ended a 34-game losing streak by beating the Falcons 7-3. The teams have become rivals in the short history of the series, and this should be another intense game despite the records. PICKS: Emons was convinced by RU's victory, but O'Meara thinks the Falcons will rebound.

**South Lyon at N. Farmington:** The Raiders (2-5) have had tough luck with the Lions the last two years, losing 12-7 and 27-20. North could have upset the unbeaten Lions two years ago but was stopped short of the goal line in the last minute, and they outgained South Lyon 410-277 last year. The Lions (4-3) made the Class A playoffs each year but are less potent this year. North has played well the last two weeks and is poised for a strong finish. PICKS: Emons likes the Lions, but O'Meara plays a hunch and takes North.

**Brother Rice at Farm. Harrison:** This is the second meeting between these perennial powers. The Hawks won the '91 season opener 32-0 at the Silverdome to begin an undefeated year that ended with a Class BB title. These teams could meet again in the Class A semifinals. No. 2-ranked Harrison (7-1) has already qual-

ified for the playoffs in Region 3, but the No. 9 Warriors (6-2) must win to guarantee a Region 4 playoff berth. Furthermore, Redford CC needs a Rice victory to help its quality in Class AA. Is it possible CC players might actually sit on the Rice side and root for the Warriors? Harrison and Rice have a common opponent in Dearborn Divine Child; the Hawks won 21-7 (but added a late score in an otherwise 14-7 game) and the Warriors 9-7. PICKS: Emons places an order of Rice. O'Meara's hopes rest with the Hawks for another week.

**Clarencville at Thurston:** The host Eagles (6-2) have an outside shot at a Class BB playoff berth but will need a lot of help in addition to a win over the Trojans (4-4). A post-season berth would be the crowning achievement for a five season, but a 7-2 finish looks good in the record book, too. Clarencville has won its last two games, including a 7-6 revenge win over Lutheran East. PICKS: O'Meara goes with the underdog Trojans, while Emons takes Thurston.

**Liggett at Lath. Westland:** Lutheran Westland (2-6) has taken more than its share of bad knocks this season, but the Warriors can end the season by giving a few instead. They play winless Grosse Pointe University Liggett (0-5), which lost 20-0 to Lutheran Northwest. For an idea of what to expect, the Warriors defeated Lutheran Northwest 18-6. PICKS: Lutheran Westland is the unanimous choice.

**Bishop Borgosa vs. East Catholic at Detroit Denby:** The Catholic League crossover is a rematch of a second-week game won by East Catholic 30-6. The Chargers (5-2) were third in the Catholic C-Section and missed the Prep Bowl but most certainly will be in the Class DD playoffs again. The Spartans (2-6) have won their last two games after starting 0-6. PICKS: The East Siders win again.

**St. Agatha vs. Holy Redeemer, 7:30 p.m. at Hillbert Jr. High:** It's been a so-so year for the Aggies (3-5), who tied for fourth (and last) place in the C-Section. After a loss to East Catholic, the chances are good they will finish on a winning note. Holy Redeemer (5-5) was fourth in the D-Section. The Lions defeated Taylor Light and Life, Wyandotte Mount Carmel and in their last game Cardinal Rooney 12-10. PICKS: Emons takes the odds and St. Agatha, but O'Meara is forced to go with the upset.

## SUNDAY'S GAME

**Redford CC vs. Bishop Gallagher, 7 p.m. at the Silverdome:** The Shamrocks (7-1) make their annual appearance in the Prep Bowl. CC will represent the Central Division in the A-B championship game for the third straight year and seventh time in the last 12. The Shamrocks have won 13 league titles, including seven of the last 14 under coach Tom Mash, Gallagher (4-4) has been a Double AA member since 1965 but makes his first trip to championship game. CC defeated DelPore 14-0, while the Lancers lost 8-7 to the AA in-champions. PICKS: CC does its part to keep its playoff hopes alive.



QB has big game: Senior David Zietz, who runs the ball in an earlier game with Plymouth Canton, passed for two touchdowns in North's 28-21 win.

# Zietz sparks North victory, 28-21 over Livonia Franklin

Senior quarterback David Zietz passed for 156 yards and two touchdowns Saturday to lead North Farmington to its second football victory.

Zietz completed 11 of 22 passes as the host Raiders (2-6) defeated Livonia Franklin 28-21.

Senior tight end Scot Lord caught six passes for 107 yards, including a 27-yard touchdown reception. Zietz also passed 53 yards to Richard Beal for another TD.

"If he can throw the ball, we have kids who can catch it," North coach Jim O'Leary said, adding the Raiders have a limited rushing attack. "He has to be able to throw it or we're not going anywhere."

The victory followed a solid effort against Lakes Division champ Westland John Glenn, and O'Leary believes it will give the team a lift going into its last game Saturday at home against South Lyon (4-3).

"I think it will. I told the seniors they have a chance to leave their mark at the school by finishing with two wins," O'Leary said. "We've just come together and realized what we can do the last two weeks."

"After the Glenn game, the kids started to believe in themselves. There was no team (Franklin) that didn't have any more speed than us, so we were even up there."

"The Raiders, who were averaging just five points a game, scored twice in the first quarter and led 15-7 at halftime."

"Jeff Kong ran 6 yards for a touchdown, and Beal's TD catch made it 14-0. The Zietz-to-Lord touchdown pass made it 21-7 in

## FOOTBALL

the third quarter, but the Patriots (1-7) cut it to 21-13 to start the fourth.

Franklin quarterback Greg Maple was 13-of-23 passing for 130 yards but also threw four interceptions. North's Kevin Demeter returned one 42 yards for a TD to give the Raiders a 28-13 lead.

After a long kickoff return, Maple threw his second TD pass, and a two-point conversion got the Patriots within 28-21 to end the scoring.

Kong had 44 of North's 108 rushing yards on nine carries. The Raiders outgained Franklin 264-172 overall.

**CHURCHILL 7, FARMINGTON 3:** Livonia Churchill ended a 34-game losing streak that spanned four seasons Saturday at the expense of the host Falcons. Both teams are 1-7.

Jeff Sheehan scored the winning touchdown on a 1-yard run with 5/4 minutes left in the game. Sean Noble kicked a 44-yard field goal to give Farmington a 3-0 lead just before halftime. The Chargers, who had what was believed to be the state's longest losing streak, hadn't won a game since Oct. 27, 1989 when they best Livonia Stevenson 13-0.

"The Nightmare on Newburgh is over," Churchill coach Steve Naumesh said. "This isn't something out of a movie like 'Rudy' or 'Hoosiers,' but it really says, by the demonstration of our players, pep band, parents and cheerleaders, how excited they could be and what high school sports mean in general."

The Falcons lost three fumbles in the game, including one at the Churchill 5-yard line after a five-play drive off the opening kickoff.

"We had our opportunities, but we

laid the ball on the ground," Farmington coach Lauri Niskanen said, adding off-side penalties also hurt the Falcons. "We think they're giving us a good effort, but it just hasn't happened yet on the scoreboard."

"If we score the first time, it could have changed everything. There's a fine line between winning and losing. We've had eight games and been in seven of them."

After its touchdown, Churchill recovered an onside kick and drove to the Farmington 5. The Falcons blocked a field goal, and Bub Linton ran 90 yards for an apparent Farmington TD. But an inadvertent whistle blew the play dead, and the Chargers got to run the down again. They chose to run the next time.

The Falcons got the ball again with 30 seconds left. Mike Tokar, who completed five of 10 passes, had most of his 87 rushing yards on the ensuing drive before Churchill intercepted to preserve its victory.

Jake Siskosky rushed for 124 yards on 23 carries as Farmington moved the ball on the ground. In the last four games, he has 411 yards on 80 attempts.

**REDFORD CC 35, NOTRE DAME 0:** Redford Catholic Central scored in every quarter Sunday and limited host Harper Woods Notre Dame to 52 total yards to win the Catholic League Central Division game.

The Shamrocks gained 263 total yards, and senior quarterback Darryl Lingelbach completed four of five passes for 48 yards and two touchdowns. Dave Morelli caught an 11-yard TD pass and also intercepted two passes.

Morelli returned his first interception 28 yards to the ND 13-yard line in the first quarter. After losing a yard on the first carry, Lingelbach threw a 14-yard TD pass to Matt Ambrozak.

Morelli's first of five extra points made the score 7-0. Five of Berber's six kickoffs reached the end zone, and Andy Short led all tacklers with seven.

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