

T'birds keep opponents guessing

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

What can Farmington Hills Harrison expect from the Dearborn Edsel Ford offense Saturday in a Class A regional football game? Just about anything.

The Thunderbirds use multiple offensive formations and ignore the conventional wisdom when it comes to calling plays. "We'll do anything from any set at any time from anywhere on the field," Edsel Ford coach Jack Bridges said. "We'll run a spread formation at the goal line; we'll throw a pass on fourth down from our own 20."

"People say 'What are you doing?' Why not throw the ball if you have confidence you can do it? 'That's not sound football.' If it gets the first down, it is."

The Hawks haven't faced a team that does so many different things since playing Allen Park two years ago in the Class BB playoffs.

"Split backs, unbalanced, slide formation, offset — you name it, they have it," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "They use many sets and hope to confuse you."

Edsel Ford is led by senior quarterback Brian Stone (6-0, 170). He has rushed and passed for 500 yards each, scored 11 touchdowns and passed for four more. Senior Mike Hazimeh (6-11, 198) is the top rusher with 613 yards and eight TDs.

"We like to have the ball in his hands to run or throw," said Bridges of Stone. "Those two

FOOTBALL		
EDSEL FORD		
10	Howell	21
22	Garden City	17
20	Redford Union	16
20	Dearborn Fordson	21
14	Southgate	6
17	Dearborn	16
41	Taylor Truman	0
8	Taylor Kennedy	12
15	Lincoln Park	0
179	7-2-0	99
HARRISON		
21	Divine Child	7
19	Westland Glenn	24
17	Northville	6
21	Livonia Franklin	6
23	Walled Lake Western	0
38	Plymouth Canton	21
36	Livonia Churchill	0
7	Westland Glenn (2OT)	6
0	Brother Rice	35
172	7-2-0	105

have been doing it most of the year for us, and I see no reason to change things now."

Junior Kevin Stone (6-2, 160) is the younger brother of the quarterback and the leading receiver with eight catches and four TDs. Senior tailback Ake Khoury (6-8, 162) is another running threat.

The T'birds are comparable with Harrison in size, averaging 254 on the offensive line instead of 250 like Birmingham Brother Rice. Senior tackle John Kemp (6-2, 243) is the top lineman.

"We've played a lot of teams that have been much bigger than

us," Bridges said. "By comparison, Harrison isn't as big as teams we've played, but they're much quicker."

Rice used its size and strength to open holes for tailback Marcus Harvey, who had 190 yards and two TDs in Rice's 35-0 win.

"(Coach) Bob (Suter) felt the defensive line played pretty well," Herrington said. "They did a decent job neutralizing them, but the ends and linebackers were getting blocked, and we couldn't hang on to Marcus Harvey."

"Their size was a problem, but it wasn't just that. Marcus was running so hard, when we had people on him, we couldn't stop him."

What did Bridges tell his players Monday about Harrison in the wake of the defeat? "I told them 'They're Farmington Harrison and they're won five state championships,'" he said.

Edsel Ford has seven two-way players, including the Stones and Hazimeh in the defensive secondary. The others are linemen Tom Horvat (5-10, 170), Jim Muscat (6-9, 205) and Jake Gering (6-1, 180) and monster back Lee Grizzell (6-0, 172). The top tackler is linebacker Rob Mackenzie (5-9, 165).

"Sometimes you have to sell yourself out on defense, and our smaller kids have been doing that," Bridges said, adding Edsel Ford has not allowed more than 80 total yards in its past three games.

"We have a lot of defensive backfield speed and some times that compensates for errors

made up front."

Despite a long history of success, the T'birds are playing only their second playoff game. They lost to Detroit Henry Ford 9-7 in the first round in 1986.

The T'birds won the Mega Conference White Division with a 6-0 record. Like the Hawks, they are 7-2 overall with both losses to playoff teams — Class AA Howell and Fordson.

"There were a lot of times we were 8-1 and 7-2 and didn't get in," said Bridges, who is 33-41 in 14 years. The T'birds used to play Fordson in the last game and a loss usually meant elimination. "That was before anyone realized there was a little disparity and decided to make AA and A."

"The fact we're in the playoffs I hope is satisfaction to the teams we had in the past and they come and enjoy it. I think we're playing for more than just this year's team."

Harrison fullback/linebacker Nick Williams, who didn't play against Rice because of an ankle injury, is expected to play. Two-fer minor injuries in an auto accident and will miss one game.

In the past two games, Jason Granger was held to 54 yards and Joe Pesci completed 15 of 43 passes for 148 yards. Pesci attempted 21 passes against Rice and not 64 as reported Monday.

"We hope to establish the running game, so we can set up the passing game and not have to throw all the time," Herrington said.

Hawks from page 1B

"I think we always won a regional at least, but it's going to be very tough this year. Northville is looking strong and Edsel Ford has a nice team."

Ironically, a week after one of its biggest wins, Harrison suffered one of its worst defeats Saturday when it lost 35-0 to Birmingham Brother Rice.

"I think the kids have a way of rebounding, and it's a whole new season now," Herrington said Monday. "Most teams are putting away their gear today and we get to practice, so I think that will get them going."

Besides reclaiming the Western Lakes Activities Association title, the Hawks got back in the playoffs after a one-year absence that ended a streak of six consecutive appearances.

"It's great to be back; it's the most fun time of year, and we can't wait to get back out there and get going," Herrington said Monday.

"It was only a week ago we were at the top of the mountain, so I think we'll be able to put (the Rice) game behind us after our meeting today and move on."

Herrington is the first to admit he couldn't have built the program into what it has become by himself. He has always given his assistants their share of the credit.

Bob Satter, who is widely recognized for his work as line coach and defensive coordinator, has been with Herrington 24 years and Bob Sallow 18. John Witkowski and Steve Dollaway joined the staff later but have longevity with 16 and 13 years, respectively. "I had to do a lot harder coaching to coach over their mistakes," said Herrington, with tongue firmly in cheek. "The fact they've been here all the years I feel we share equally in the success."

"The only trouble is Sallow, now that he's retired, is too relaxed and doesn't get uptight

enough for the games."

Herrington, who served eight years as an assistant to Hall of Fame coach Ron Holland at North Farmington, never envisioned the success Harrison football has enjoyed when the school opened in 1970.

"I don't think we ever set any particular goal," he said. "You do it by year, go out to have fun and do the best you can."

"It just started coming together. Even now that's the way it is. We don't have any timetable for

how long we'll continue. I always said if my assistants left, I wouldn't try to go on."

The 200th win wasn't just another win for Herrington. It was special for several reasons: The Hawks won the league title with it, upset unbeaten Westland John Glenn and the way they won it — 7-0 in double overtime.

"I think that will make it a lot easier to remember," he said. "I think we'll remember that game for a long time, because it was against a very good team."

Unsung linemen lead Glenn against Adrian

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

It's time the guys in the trenches stand up and take a bow at Westland John Glenn.

Where would the Rockets be without their front seven?

Probably not in the Class AA-Region II playoffs, which begin at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Glenn. The Rockets (8-1), making their sixth post-season appearance under coach Chuck Gordon, take on Adrian (7-2) in a pre-regional matchup.

"It all starts there," said Gordon of his seven blockers. "It's a special group that doesn't get much recognition."

"We're going to have to run the ball at times and give protection for our quarterback (Brian Morrison). If this group has a great game, I think we have a chance to beat them."

The Rockets average 215 pounds per man on the line.

Seniors Bryan Besco (6-1, 195) and Mike Bint (6-3, 210) give Glenn a tough combination at tight end. Both also start at linebacker on defense.

"Mike's always been a big guy, and we look for big things from him," Gordon said. "He's starting to be a dominant blocker and is really coming only like a three-year varsity player ought to be. He's also excelled at linebacker. He just makes things happen."

"Bryan can play wherever you put him. He can run the counters and reverses and is an excellent receiver. He can do just about everything. He's a guy with excellent feet and a good blocker."

Matt Schwartz (6-0, 240), a second-year starter, and Tom North (5-11, 240), have given Glenn solid play at the tackle slots. Both are seniors.

"Matt has been outstanding this year," Gordon said. "You can count on him every week. He's a good practice player."

"Tom has been a pleasant surprise. He's a competitor. He's a guy who plays hard and has a bit of a mean streak to go with it."

FOOTBALL

Glenn features a Mutt-and-Jeff combination at guard.

The team's biggest offensive lineman is senior Geoff Miodowski (6-5, 250), while the smallest is junior Jim Lock (5-7, 175).

"Geoff has been a solid player," Gordon said. "He's always been a big kid with tools, and now he's begun to get confidence."

"Lock is very steady. We saw in the spring that he was a tough kid with good feet and balance."

The key, however, is center Tom Nabone, a 5-11, 200-pound senior.

"He's the biggest surprise of the group," said the Glenn coach. "At one time he wasn't in the plans, but he's developed good work habits and made himself a player. He's the center the one who gets the group going."

Adrian scouting report

The Maples, who qualified as the fourth-place team in Region II, lost twice during the regular season (to Ann Arbor Huron and Pioneer).

Coach Al Romano features a wide-open offensive attack, led by quarterback Dave Ritz, a 6-1, 185-pound senior.

"I'm impressed with him," Gordon said. "He's a veteran and an excellent passer. He can also run the option, but he's had an ankle problem and I think it slowed him. When he's healthy, he's quite a talent."

Slot-backs Chad Bilkey (5-8, 160) and Jared Timko (6-9, 160) give Adrian a speedy combination. Fullback William Henagan, a 6-foot, 215-pound junior, provides hard-nosed running and blocking.

On defense, Gordon said the Maples will give Glenn a number of different looks out of the 5-2 and 6-2 alignments. Senior linebacker Adam Ligo (6-1, 220) is the team's standout.

Adrian also possesses a fine kicker in Scott Sprow (6-5, 170);

How to become your own landlord

How much do you pay each month in rent? Chances are, with today's interest rates, you could buy a home and have about the same monthly payment.

Our mortgages are fast and affordable. And we'll work with you to come up with a payment that's not too far from what you're paying now.

With new programs available from the Federal Housing Administration and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, you may qualify for low down payments, special reduced interest rates and low monthly payments.

Through federal and state financing programs, First of America can now offer more kinds of mortgages to low- and moderate-income families and first time buyers.

For more information about FHA, MSHDA and our other loans, call us at 281-5241 or stop by any one of our convenient locations.

A home mortgage from First of America. It's our version of rent control.

FIRST OF AMERICA
A bank for life.SM
Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. If hearing impaired, our TDD is available from 9-5 E.S.T. at 1-800-289-4614.

Run the Jingle Bell
Sunday, December 5, '93
Oakland University
A fun, festive 5k Run & Walk
Children's Candy Cane Walk (3-7 years)
Information Hotline: 350-3030
Race entry includes: Long sleeve T-Shirt • Hot Chili Buffet • Prizes
Proceeds benefit Arthritis Foundation (Pledges or list fees, call for details)

THE AMERICAN LEGION
75 Years of Community Service

Autumn Close Out Sale!
Save Hundreds of Dollars
On a New Sundance Spa

See 17 Models on Display From \$2,395
Delivery & Set Up In Time For The Holidays
Hurry! Sale Ends Soon
Portable Spas plus . . .
40500-D Grand River Ave.
Novi, MI 48375
(313) 474-9600
Special Sale Hours
M, Tu, Th, 10-8, W, F, Sat, 10-6,
Sun 11-6, Nov. 7 only

COLEMAN Spas
94 YEARS OF FUN
Just Relax. Escape it all. To unwind or to invigorate. Settle back into a sea of tingling bubbles and feel your cares melt away.
A Coleman Spa is just what you need to soak away a bad day or make the most of a good one.
Choose from a variety of floor samples and SAVE \$300⁰⁰
VISIT OUR BEAUTIFUL SHOWROOMS

WEST: 2750 12 Mile, 398-4577
EAST: 48270 Wixom, 939-5333

398-4577 939-5333
Daily 11-7 • Sat. 10-4 • Sun. 12-3