

### FOOTBALL

#### HARRISON OFFENSE

Center: senior Jason Blumberg (6-0, 195); guards: junior Steve Shaleb (6-9, 185); senior Chad Cusinsky (5-11, 185); tackles: senior Matt Zimmerman (6-2, 195); junior Jim Sundie (6-0, 185); tight end: senior Nick Burgess (6-3, 187); wide receiver: junior Kevin Bryant (6-0, 170); quarterbacks: senior Charles Bembak (6-1, 175); fullback: junior Nick Williams (6-2, 230); tailback: sophomore Jason Granger (5-6, 135); wingbacks: senior Brendan Cotter (6-0, 175).

#### HARRISON DEFENSE

No. 3 guard: junior Marc Lesperance (5-5, 160); tackle: senior Gary Lesperance (5-10, 225); junior Evan Jefferson (6-1, 210); ends: senior Brock Gove (6-2, 190); senior Matt Zimmerman (6-2, 190); linebackers: senior Charles Bembak (6-1, 160); junior Nick Williams (6-2, 230); monstereback: senior Brendan Cotter (6-0, 175); halfback: junior Kevin Bryant (6-0, 170); safety: senior Nick Burgess (6-3, 187); cornerbacks: junior Dave Hensel (6-0, 155); senior Tim Barnes (5-10, 193) also plays defensive tackle but has been injured.

#### MIDLAND OFFENSE

Center: senior Steve Taylor (6-1, 225); guards: senior Matt Simpson (6-1, 185); junior Ben Reooh (6-1, 205); tackle: senior Kevin Smoot (6-0, 185); junior Neil Facio (6-0, 195); tight end: senior Dove Tomney (6-0, 205); junior Austin Bidwell (6-1, 165); quarterback: junior Brent Wallace (6-0, 165); halfback: senior Rod Bauer (5-8, 180); senior Jake Miller (5-11, 185); wingbacks: junior Joe Dana (5-10, 170).

#### MIDLAND DEFENSE

Tackles: senior Steve Markey (5-10, 185); sophomore Pete LoFogo (5-9, 180); ends: sophomore Jakob Ostler (5-10, 200); junior John Miller (5-10, 185); outside linebackers: senior Chad Ignatowski (6-2, 190); outside linebackers: junior Dave Bergeron (5-11, 180); junior Ben Noer (6-2, 185); cornerbacks: junior Bryan Page (5-9, 155); junior Tim Fishom (5-8, 180); monstereback: junior Scott McManus (5-10, 190); safety: junior Andy Kesti (6-0, 170).

### Hawks

from page 1B

Zimmerer. "Gove has been outstanding at the end of the year, and he's moved into the backfield (in the playoffs) to give us some more blocking."

Quarterback Joe Pesci plays a popular position, but he's another player who has proved equal to the assignment in his first year as a starter. "He only threw the ball 12 times last year because he was a tight end," Herrington said. "To take over and lead the team into the Silverdome is a big accomplishment."

The Chemics have a possible Division I prospect in kicker Chris Stanton, who has booted 10 field goals, the longest from 44 yards. Gove has made 30 of 33 extra points and four of eight field goals, including one from 44, also.

**■ 'We use different formations and have different offensive philosophes but the same type of kids.'**

John Herrington  
Harrison coach

#### Quick on defense

Herrington is greatly impressed and most concerned about Midland's quickness, especially on defense. The Chemics stuffed a bigger Jenison team and denied the Wildcats any running success.

Senior Chad Ignatowski, the middle linebucker in the 4-3 defense, is the leading tackler and averages 10 a game. Senior Steve Markey is another veteran defender, and tackle Jakob Ostler and safety Andy Kesti are impressive players, too.

"They swarm to the football," Herrington said. "When we look at film, it looks like they have more than 11 guys on the field, because they'll get over the place. They play very aggressively and rush the passer well. You can tell they have excellent technique in the offensive and defensive lines."

"The Chemics 'move around quite a bit, and are pretty heavy on punt,' Jozwiak said.

Harrison also stopped a big Fraser team and its power attack in its semifinal game, holding the Ramblers to one first down and 37 yards in the first half of a 35-14 win. Harrison and Midland have one started each weighing 225 pounds, but most linemen are in the 180-200 range.

"I know Farmington Harrison is not real big, but we're smaller than them," Jozwiak said. "We've been facing teams that average 260 from tackle to tackle all year, so size has not been a problem."

### FOOTBALL

#### HARRISON HAWKS PLAYOFF HISTORY

1993 — CLASS A  
Final: Harrison vs. Midland?  
Semifinal: Harrison 35, Fraser 14.  
Regional: Harrison 23, Northville 18.  
First round: Harrison 44, Edsel Ford 23.

1991 — CLASS BD  
Final: Harrison 34, Cheboygan 7.  
Semifinal: Harrison 32, Tecumseh 7.  
Regional: Harrison 21, Aton Park 6.  
First round: Harrison 49, Crestwood 6.

1990 — CLASS DD  
Semifinal: Oxford 48, Harrison 38.  
Regional: Harrison 48, Avondale 16.  
First round: Harrison 22, Clintondale 19.

1989 — CLASS E  
Final: Harrison 28, DeWitt 27.  
Semifinal: Harrison 3, E. Grand Rapids 2.  
Regional: Harrison 28, Aton Park 6.  
First round: Harrison 23, Riverview 7.

1986 — CLASS B  
Final: Harrison 44, St. Joseph 9.  
Semifinal: Harrison 42, Avondale 7.  
Regional: Harrison 35, Riverview 0.  
First round: Harrison 32, Clawson 0.

1987 — CLASS A  
Final: Grand Rapids CC 19, Harrison 7.  
Semifinal: Harrison 6, Lakeand 3.  
Regional: Harrison 29, Aton Park 6.  
First round: Harrison 29, Aton Park 6.

1986 — CLASS B  
Semifinal: Marysville 22, Harrison 6.  
Regional: Harrison 30, Detroit Northern 18.  
First round: Harrison 21, Riverview 14.

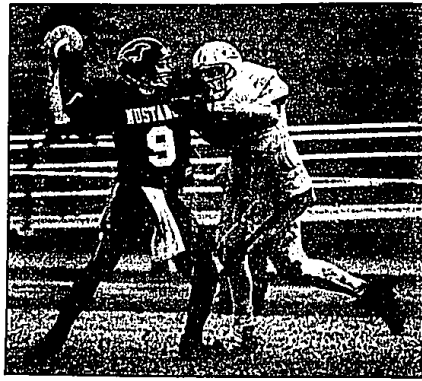
1984 — CLASS A  
Semifinal: Fordson 9, Harrison 6.  
Regional: Harrison 17, Seaholm 6.

1982 — CLASS A  
Final: Harrison 17, Fordson 14, 20T.  
Semifinal: Harrison 6, Lakeand 3.  
Regional: Harrison 23, Lansing 0.

1981 — CLASS D  
Final: Harrison 7, Muskegon CC 0.  
Semifinal: Harrison 6, Willow Run 0.  
Regional: Harrison 33, Marysville 13.

1980 — CLASS D  
Semifinal: Okemos 14, Harrison 3.  
Regional: Harrison 7, Lumen Christi 0.

1978 — CLASS A  
Final: Midland Dow 36, Harrison 27.  
Semifinal: Harrison 21, Lamphers 0.



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pass rusher: Brock Gove, a key player at defensive end, sacks Northville quarterback Marc Golden in an earlier playoff game.

### Glenn seeks AA grid title.

By BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

The Tractor pull is back Saturday at the Pontiac Silverdome, sponsored by the Dearborn Fordson football team.

It's the fourth state championship appearance for the Tractors (11-1), who will meet Westland John Glenn (11-1) for the coveted Class AA title, 1 p.m. Saturday at the Silverdome.

Fordson's five-man offensive front, which averages 264 pounds per man, has been gaining momentum during its playoff run. However, it's beginning to look more like monster trucks than Tractors.

Last week, the Tractors steamrolled Utica Stevenson, 28-0, as cousins Ali and Michael Saal, the backfield combination, combined for 190 yards on the ground. "They're big, and they have an excellent offensive line," Glenn coach Chuck Gordon said. "They have great size and they've really been coming off the ball throughout the playoffs."

Glenn's defense, which has yielded only 102 points in 12 games, must contend with the likes of Ali Chamout (6 feet, 235 pounds), John Perez (6-2, 315), Charles Wilson (6-3, 284), Rabbeel Hammud (6-0, 243) and Ahas El-Zayat (6-0, 244).

"They line up and try to pound you," Gordon said. "They do it to everybody at the line of scrimmage. They've just dominated people and gotten better each week."

Fordson, a perennial playoff qualifier, has yet to win a state title despite three final appearances (1950, '82 and '84). Glenn, meanwhile, is making its first ap-

pearance. (The Rockets came up one game short in 1986.)

The two teams have only met once with Glenn, using a no-huddle offense, winning in the first round of the 1990 playoffs, 20-7.

"Coach (Chuck) Gordon has been doing the same stuff and the same things for many years, and do it well," said Fordson fourth-year coach Jeff Stergalus. "We do the same things, they've been successful, and they've been so successful."

"Glenn is extremely talented and big. They're so well-coached. Fundamentally, what they do is very sound."

Fordson's defense, which has allowed only 120 points all season, must find a way to contain a potent Glenn offense. The Rockets have scored a total of 348 points.

"They're conservative, but they're not afraid to try different things," Stergalus said. "They'll use trick plays, but control-type of trick plays... nothing to get them in trouble if things go wrong."

Stergalus, a native of Riverview who played under Dr. Don Lesener before moving on to Charles Justice's staff at Fordson 13 years ago, has watched his team grow since losing its season opener to Detroit DePorres, 14-12, in overtime.

"It's just not the offensive line," Stergalus said. "We stressed that you've got to get better every day and this group has bought into that. We're better in every aspect."

"After losing to DePorres, I had no idea we'd be where we're at today."

### Chemics faced tough foes in rugged Saginaw Valley

By DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

One reason Midland High has made its to the Class A championship football game is the motivation process it underwent during the regular season.

The Chemics will play Farmington Hills Harrison in the state final at 1 p.m. Friday in the Silverdome.

"It grew up as the season went on," Midland coach Gary Jozwiak said. "We had a good start, winning our first three games as we tried getting people to fall into place."

Then we had some key injuries and lost 3-4 starters, but we regrouped since then and have developed into a pretty good team. The offensive line has stepped it up and become more aggressive the last three weeks."

Midland starts five juniors on offense, six juniors and two sophomores on defense. It needed time to mature as a team, "and it seems we have made that step," Jozwiak said.

The Chemics fared well despite facing tough competition each week in the Saginaw Valley Conference, which was particularly balanced and provided no breaks on the schedule, according to Jozwiak.

Midland won its first six games before losing to SVC Champ Flint Central, which was unbeaten until losing to Westland John Glenn in a Class AA semifinal Saturday.

The Chemics suffered their "most disappointing loss" in their next game to Bay City Western. They were down 14-0 with five minutes to play against Midland Dow in the ninth game but rallied to win in two overtimes.

"That started the momentum for this run we've had in the playoffs," Jozwiak said. "If we could win the first three, we knew we would have a shot at the playoffs regardless of what happened the rest of the way."

"But we also knew the last half would be the more challenging, but we won two of the four and that kept us in the playoffs."

Harrison senior quarterback Joe Pesci dressed for the playoff games in 1991 and watched from the sideline as older brother Mike, an all-class QB title that year.

"After we won it, he grabbed me and said 'You gave me one year senior year,'" Pesci said. "The keeps saying it would be the greatest feeling of your life. Just make sure you're fully focused on winning."

In the semifinals, Midland defeated Jenison, which had beaten No. 1-ranked Perigo Central and East Lansing, the Class A champ in '91.

"We weren't looking at them as being any better or worse than any other team in the playoffs," Jozwiak said. "They're all good teams, and we have to play well that day. Harrison is every bit as good as we've faced."

Harrison will be the home team and wear its dark green jerseys Friday, in seven previous final games, the Hawks have worn that uniform once. That was in 1975 when it lost to Midland Dow.

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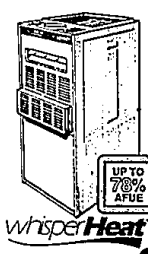
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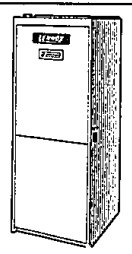
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