

Hawks savor win over Warriors

■ Farmington Harrison won the battle of unbeaten football teams Friday and avenged last year's loss to Walled Lake Western, 21-7.

BY BILL PARKER
STAFF WRITER

Revenge is a sweet thing and the longer it takes to accomplish the sweeter it ultimately is. That explains the frantic celebration on the football field Friday at Walled Lake Western by the Farmington Harrison faithful.

Last year, Western hung a 14-3 loss on the Hawks at Harrison. The Hawks gained a little revenge Friday and returned the favor at Western's home game on the tune of 21-7. Following the game hundreds of Harrison students and family members stormed the field in celebration.

"We wanted this so bad since they beat us last year," said Harrison senior tackle Mike Fisher. "They're a great team and they're going to go a long way, but we've been preparing for this game since last year. It was a tough game. It was a war out there, but it's a huge win."

Fisher, who finished with four tackles and a sack, was part of a tough defensive effort that contained Western's high-powered offensive attack.

Western, the defending state champion and ranked No. 6 in Class AA, entered the game averaging 47 points and 448 yards per contest through the first three games. Harrison, No. 1 in Class A, limited the Warriors to just seven points and 227 yards of total offense.

Before an overflow crowd estimated at nearly 5,000 fans, the Hawks defense came up with the big plays when they needed them most. Western turned the ball over four times and Harrison capitalized on two of them.

Trailing 7-0 early in the second quarter, the Warriors mounted a drive deep into Harrison territory. But the drive stalled when Western fumbled and senior linebacker Matt Walker recovered for Harrison at the 19-yard line.

Western appeared to stop Harrison on the ensuing drive when they stuffed senior tailback Chris Ghannam (22 carries for 97 yards) at the line of scrimmage on fourth-and-one at the 49, but a 15-yard penalty on the Warriors for too many men on the field gave the



Looking for daylight under the lights: Senior tailback Chris Ghannam turns the corner on the Walled Lake Western defense Friday. He scored Harrison's first touchdown in a 21-7 victory.

Hawks new life. Harrison scored four plays later on a 21-yard reverse by junior split end Ricky Bryant.

Western came right back and again mounted a drive, marching to the Harrison 21 before the Hawks' defense came up big once more. Senior corner-

back Jason Sharpe raced in and blocked a 38-yard field goal attempt moments before the first half ended to preserve Harrison's 13-0 lead.

"They were pressing us so fast in the first half that we wanted to run some counter stuff (in the second half) and

take advantage of that hot pursuit," explained Western coach Chuck App, whose team stands 3-1 overall and 1-1 in the WLA Western Division. "We had some success with it (in the second

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Raiders battle back but lose to Rocks, 21-14

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER

Eric Peterson scored on a one-yard plunge seconds into the fourth quarter to lift Plymouth Salem to a 21-14 homecoming victory over North Farmington Friday night.

The Rocks scored twice in the first four minutes of the contest then scrambled to fight off a bold North Farmington comeback.

"We got some breaks early and capitalized on two of them but not the

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third," said Salem coach Tom Moshimer. "I give North Farmington a lot of credit. They had tremendous heart and fought back."

The Rocks, 2-2 overall and 1-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Lakes Division, showed heart of their own early Friday.

Salem took the opening kickoff and began on its own 27-yard line. North

stuffed a Salem run on first down and put the Rocks in a second-and-12 situation.

Quarterback Tony Bernhardt let fly a bomb on second down. Running back Jason Lukasik outdueling a North defender for the ball, then streaked 75 yards for a touchdown at 11:07.

The Raiders (3-1, 1-1) began their first drive at their own 20-yard line. After picking up a first down, North was forced to punt.

A low, skidding snap to the punter

gave Salem's Anwar Crutchfield and Brett Burleson enough time to tackle the kicker back at North's 20-yard line.

A 10-yard pass from Bernhardt to Andy Kocoleski and a 9-yard run by Peterson moved the ball to the Raiders' 2. Peterson punched in his first touchdown on the next play, and Salem went up 14-0 at 8:35 of the quarter.

North appeared to be coming apart at that point. The Raiders fumbled the ball back to Salem on the second play

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Marlins coast to 3rd straight victory



Flying through the water, Kara Callan swims the butterfly portion of the individual medley. Third in the Farmington Hills swim team. She was third in the IM and second in the backstroke, contributing to a 185.65 win over Birmingham Marjani. See details on page E4.

Farmington achieves 1st dual victory

The Mathie sisters had a central role in Farmington High's first dual-meet victory in girls swimming Thursday.

Karen and Kristel Mathie won two events each and helped the Falcons win a pair of relays in Farmington's 106-79 defeat of South Lyon at North Farmington.

Kristel Mathie won the 200-yard freestyle (2:14.61) and the 500 (5:53.98); Karen Mathie took first place in the individual medley (2:25.54) and the backstroke (1:07.95).

Both girls were part of the winning 400 freestyle relay that included Sarah Cohn and Stefanie Fitzpatrick and had a 4:10.24 time.

Karen Mathie, Cohn and Fitzpatrick also helped the Falcons win the medley relay, combining with Tina Cavicholi for a 2:06.54 finish.

Fitzpatrick was the 100 freestyle winner with a personal best of 1:01.54, and Cavicholi won the breaststroke (1:16.99).

Cohn and Cavicholi made possible a Farmington sweep of the top three

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DAN O'MEARA

Hawks play like champs in big game

It was a perfect night for football Friday, and you had to like it even better if you were a Farmington Harrison player or fan.

Yours truly showed up at Walled Lake Western High School early (or so I thought) for a 7:30 p.m. kickoff.

Apparently, a few others were eager to see the Harrison-Western game, too, and were maybe a little anxious about getting in the gate as well.

The place was nearly packed by 6:45. If you had hoped to find a seat in the stands, forget it; they were all taken by that time.

As kickoff approached, a blazing sunset bid farewell to a fast-fading summer. Then, the crisp air of early autumn crept in, and it was downright chilly by the end of the evening. It was football weather, and this was football at its best.

Both teams were undefeated and state ranked. The inside track for the Western Division title in the Western Lakes Activities Association was at stake.

When it was over, the night and the victory belonged to Hawks, who accomplished a 21-7 win over the defending AA state champions.

"It was a great all-around effort," Harrison senior tailback Chris Ghannam said. "I give all the credit to the heart of this team."

"It's nothing we didn't know we could do. But when it comes down to it, it's just another game, because we have a long season ahead of us. And we have a goal at the end to be in the Dome."

Harrison (4-0, 2-0) should go on to reclaim the division title, barring any upsets, after conceding it to Western (3-1, 1-1) last year.

If the Hawks stay on track, a meeting with Westland John Glenn for the WLA championship on Oct. 24 will likely be the next really big game on the horizon.

Obviously, Harrison always has an eye on the playoff situation, and beating Western helps that cause greatly.

That's still half a season away, but a playoff berth seems almost certain and a convincing win like the Hawks had Friday makes me think they can make a run at an eighth state championship in November.

All is not lost for the Warriors. I don't seem them losing again in their last five games, and I think 6-1 will put Western in the playoffs again. Let's remember the Warriors made it at 7-2 last year and then won it all.

Harrison managed to score three touchdowns against a very good Western defense, but it was the Harrison defense that came up big Friday for the Hawks.

Harrison pretty much shut down Western's high-scoring offense and contained quarterback Frank Stanford and fullback Dave Johnson.

Stanford had a couple decent runs on broken plays in the first half, but he and Johnson rarely ventured much beyond the line of scrimmage.

"Any time a defense can hold an explosive offense like that (in check), you know you have the No. 1 defense in the state," Ghannam said.

"This is the first time our defense has just dominated," senior lineman Brian Lewis said. "The defense did a real good job of shutting them down."

Winning the Western Division title is Harrison's first goal for this season, and a win over Western was a must for that to happen.

The Warriors won last year, 14-3. On the two occasions Western has beaten the Hawks, the game was played at Harrison.

"We don't preach revenge, but we wanted the division title so bad we could taste it," Lewis said. "The focus was unbelievable this week, and it paid off in the game."

"We always feel it's our division, and we just didn't feel we could lose it

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