

# Hawks overpower Braves to win regional crown

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

"Let it snow; let it snow; let it snow!"

If the Farmington Harrison football players had a theme song for each game, that would have been a good choice Saturday.

The Hawks could've cared less about the poor weather conditions for their Class A playoff game with Ypsilanti.

Harrison (11-0) had the right solution for the snow and mud that covered Buller Field as it rolled to a 38-0 victory in the Region 3 championship game.

The Hawks played smash-mouth football and used an effective power game to crush the Braves (9-2).

Getting a big push from its big

## FOOTBALL

offensive line, Harrison amassed 222 of its 274 total yards, as well as five touchdowns, on the ground.

"On a muddy field, we knew it was going to be a power game," Harrison senior tackle Mike Fisher said. "We kept pushing them back; it was like a sleigh ride."

"Our attitude for each game is we can power anybody, and that's how we played it."

Senior Zack Cornwell continued his post-season scoring rampage with 26 points on three touchdowns runs, five extra points and a 30-yard field goal.

Senior Chris Ghannam and junior Matt Reed scored the

other TDs on runs of 4 and 8 yards, respectively.

"We knew the game would be won or lost with the people up front," Ypsilanti coach Dan Brown said. "That's the first time anybody has controlled the ball like they did. We couldn't get any penetration."

Junior Ricky Bryant returned the opening kickoff 45 yards to the Ypsilanti 35, but Harrison's first possession ended with an interception at the 13.

Junior Brett Foster blocked the Ypsilanti punt, and the Hawks had just 22 yards to cover in six plays. Cornwell scored on runs of 1 and 4 yards in the first half.

The Hawks scored on their next three possessions, starting at the Ypsi 43, Harrison 49 and Ypsi 40. The drives consisted of

seven, five and four plays, respectively. The score was 28-0 at halftime.

"They had the long kickoff return to start the game, and that gave them all the momentum right there," Brown said. "We wanted to throw our defense out there and see what kind of tempo we had to set, and they got off to a fast start."

Cornwell, who rushed for 90 yards on nines carries, kicked the field goal early in the third quarter and ran 34 yards for the final TD at the start of the fourth.

"The Grubbers were terrific; they set the tone early and kept pounding away," Harrison coach John Herrington said. "We have some speed, too, that we couldn't use. But the field conditions were in our favor for the power

game today."

The Braves never crossed midfield and had just four first downs. They were held to 57 yards rushing and 66 total.

Ypsilanti was minus two starters because of injury—fullback Shane Bradford (ankle) and wingback Andrew Brooks (knee).

"When speed is your best asset, it didn't help the field was as slippery as it was," Brown said. "Even when we did have a hole, they closed it quickly."

"Once we couldn't control the line of scrimmage, we know we had to have something else happen to generate some offense, and it didn't happen."

"We had to get on the corners; that's how we were going to beat them. They were better inside and going straight ahead."

Ghannam rushed for a game-

high 94 yards on 19 carries, Reed 33 on five. Senior Jared Hopkins completed four of 12 passes for 52 yards.

"We try to have a good power game every year, because when you get in the playoffs you're going to have this kind of weather," Herrington said. "If you don't have it, you're going to be in trouble."

"We ran three or four basic plays and kept pounding it at them."

Ypsilanti's Patrick Kendrick gained 26 yards on eight carries. Jesse Gandley was 2-of-10 passing for nine yards and was intercepted twice by Jason Sharp and Cory Davis.

"They're a wing-T team where they have to move a little more laterally, and we were all over it," Herrington said.

## Hawks from page C1

points in two playoff games. After leading Dearborn Edsel Ford at halftime, 25-21, the Hawks have outscored opponents 69-0 in the last six quar-

ters. The Maples haven't give up a point in two playoff games while scoring 55.

The Hawks feature a balanced offense that has been effective in

different ways and with different players.

"We might be throwing the ball, running outside or powering it," Herrington said, adding the Hawks have been able to adapt to the weather as they did Saturday against Ypsilanti. "One week it might be (Chris) Ghannam, (Zack) Cornwell the next; then we might be throwing to Ricky (Bryant) or (Mike) Hoad."

"And it starts with the offensive line being able to block people. If you can block people, most plays will work."

Harrison faces a Seaholm defense that has posted six shutouts and allowed an average of 7.9 points per game, slightly better than Harrison's 8.7.

"Their three linemen are very active," Herrington said. "We saw some games where people barely got a first down on them. Every time we've seen them it seems one of the Ritter kids comes up with an interception to turn the game around."

"When you make a mistake on Seaholm, they advantage of it. Any team that drives on them

ends up fumbling or having a pass intercepted. They take it right back, and Asa Sherwood ends up breaking one."

Seaholm's offense doesn't take a back seat to the defense, either. Harrison's scouting report on its offset I-formation was 33 pages thick.

And the offense is not limited to Sherwood. The Maples are the best passing team the Hawks have played, Herrington said.

"They have a very sophisticated passing game," he said. "They send Asa out of the backfield and give you a lot of things to cause you to make adjustments in the secondary."

"Their quarterback, (Bill) Schuerman, is tall and effective. He runs the bootleg and is effective throwing the ball down field."

"Sherwood is a shifty runner and has real good feet. He can cut back against the grain and be at full speed in a hurry. We'll have to make sure we get in our pursuit lanes."

per carry on 15 rushing attempts.

That's not bad for someone who played quarterback as a freshman and golf as a sophomore.

"When he came back (as a junior), we moved him to fullback, and he's gotten better and better," coach John Herrington said.

"We like to kid him about it. He was maybe a little burned out from Little League, but he came roaring back."

Cornwell rarely leaves the field now. He also starts at monsterback on defense and plays on most special teams.

For the season, he leads the Hawks in scoring with 136 points on 17 touchdowns, three field goals and 25 of 28 extra points. He has rushed for 426 yards on 59 carries and caught 21 passes for 260 yards.

"He's small but he really blocks well," Herrington said. "He's one of our fiercest competitors."

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He has rushed for five touchdowns, made good on three of four field goal attempts and kicked 11 extra points. Cornwell also is averaging 13.6 yards

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