



Photo by Liz Gorman

Playoff contest: Harrison junior Chris Roberson looks for running room Friday against Flint Powers.

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n't have been around if it hadn't been for coach (Bob) Sutter's and coach (Steve) Dollaway's defense. I was standing over there, trying to figure something out (offensively), and they kept stopping and stopping them."

Shabaz, who caught a long third-down pass from senior Lou Hadley on Harrison's next possession but was ruled out of bounds, had a 78-yard run for a touchdown on a broken play nullified by a clipping penalty midway in the fourth quarter.

The Hawks nearly had their punt from their 14 blocked, and Powers' Marcus Fisher returned it 25 yards to the Harrison 23. Powers quarterback Michael Pratt's touchdown pass to halfback Justin Barcey was wiped out when the right tackle was called for holding on Harrison's Brad Person.

On the next play, Harrison senior safety Brian Nelson intercepted Pratt, but the Hawks had their backs against the wall at their own 4.

Shabaz got Harrison out of the hole when he sprinted 66 yards on first down, running the same bootleg play the opposite way.

"I just saw an opening and ran to it," Shabaz said. "There's not much to say about it. It was just good blocking by my teammates. We try as a team, and that's all

you can do."

Senior Kevin Woods, who had 36 yards on 13 carries, ran the ball on three straight plays from the Powers 28, scoring an insurance touchdown from 11 yards with less than a minute remaining. Wong kicked another PAT. Harrison senior Nick Hall had a big hit on the ensuing kickoff and recovered the resulting fumble at the Powers 13, effectively ending the game.

The Hawks dodged a bullet late in the final minutes of the first half. After intercepting Pratt a second time, they gave the ball back with a fumble at their 28.

The Harrison defense held at the 9, and Mancotti blocked a 26-yard, field-goal attempt. But Pratt picked up the loose ball and threw a pass that was tipped away in the end zone.

Powers (9-3) had an edge in total yards, 195-172. The Chargers outgained the Hawks on the ground, 141-109. Powers had 13 first downs and Harrison 10.

Barcey rushed for 70 yards on 22 carries to lead Powers. Matt Tesser added 44 yards on eight rushes and Josh Shonts 28 on seven.

With his team trailing, Pratt, who was 2-of-13 passing for 54 yards, completed passes on back-to-back plays to Johnny Angle to

put the Chargers on the Harrison 26. But the Hawks stopped them on downs at the 22.

Shabaz finished with 85 yards on just four carries, and junior Chris Roberson added 25 on nine. Hadley completed five of 10 passes for 63 yards, and Nelson made three receptions for 30 yards.

"It hurt our confidence when we couldn't move the ball," Herrington said. "But we're going to enjoy this one, because it was a very tough game and Powers is a very good team."

"The defense held us in there until we got a break, and that ignited us when nothing else was working."

"The game was just about what we figured it would be. We knew it would be low scoring, and we felt the game would be decided on a turnover or blocked punt, and that was the way it turned out."

In addition to Mancotti, senior Ryan Lukas made 13 tackles, senior Ryan Coyle and junior Tim Doig 10 apiece and sophomore Jason Reed, subbing for an injured Kent Taylor at defensive tackle, eight. Hadley and Doig also had pass interceptions.

"Our defense is close; we stay together and work hard," Mancotti said. "Everybody goes to the ball. No matter where you are on

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John Herrington  
—Harrison football coach

the field, you hustle to the ball. We knew we had to come up big."

The Hawks, who are now 60-8 in the playoffs, have reached the semifinals for the fourth consecutive year and eighth time in this decade. This week marks their 17th appearance overall in the semis.

The victory over Powers gave Harrison its 16th regional championship since Harrison's first post-season experience in 1976 started with the semifinal round.

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ing on 13 attempts, while Payton passed for 124 yards (eight of 16) with another 40 yards on the ground.

Western fumbled twice in the second period (both recoveries made by linebacker Jake Tharp), but Glenn could not capitalize despite 101 yards on 12 carries by Jones.

"He looks like he's getting tired and the next thing you know he's 40 yards downfield," Western coach Mike Zdobski said. "We were calling him Jim Brown all week. He used to do that, too. He's a dynamite back. We were lucky to have someone in the right place to trip him up."

In the second quarter, the Rockets were intercepted again, and had two field goal tries by Jeremy Catarino go awry.

Defensive end James King blocked Catarino's 35-yard attempt, while a high snap throw off Catarino's 37-yard try again with just seven seconds left in the half.

Glenn stopped Western on its initial series of the third quarter, but the Rockets failed on a fourth-and-3 at the Western 39 when Jones was tackled for a 6-yard loss by Robert Pisha.

Meanwhile, Western moved ahead 21-0 with 4:11 left in the third quarter when Payton hit Justin Barrett for 24 yards and Parker for 20 more yards, setting up Cargill's third of four TDs, a 1-yard run.

With Glenn's defense tired and demoralized, Western ticked two more scores on the board in the final quarter — Cargill on a 36-

yard TD run and reserve quarterback Ryan Ziem on a 1-yard keeper.

"It was an all-around great effort," Zdobski said. "We threw the ball well. We ran the ball effectively and the defense played great."

"I think the key was that we were able to throw the ball early. We wanted to throw the ball and spread them out. They have big kids and they're successful against the interior run. We threw the ball early because the defense played solid and allowed us to do that."

The 6-foot-11, 190-pound Jones finished the year with an impressive 2,167 rushing yards in 12 games.

"Eric Jones has been a pleasure to coach right along with

the rest of the guys," Gordon said. "It was fun to be at practice with them, fun to be in the meetings with them, and fun to be in the locker room with them. Sometimes you enjoy some teams more than others, but all I can say is that they were a great group of guys."

Despite the season-ending 36-point loss, Gordon was pleased with his team's late season turnaround.

"Five weeks ago we were 5-2 coming off two devastating losses," the Glenn coach said. "We had to make a choice at the time — go to pieces or pick up the pieces. Our leadership pulled us together and we were able to win four in a row, two in the playoffs."

"I'm proud of them and I'll have great memories of them."

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