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## Season finale for predictions, too

### GRID PICKS



PAUL BEAUDRY

Is time up already? It seems like only yesterday, everyone was full of hope, full of great expectations, full of promise, full of optimism. Now, it is gray; it is gloomy. It is over.

Just a few are left, much like the orange leaves clinging to the bare trees. In two days, it will all be over. The 2001 edition of high school football will be done.

Was it only yesterday when we told you not only how each team had high hopes for the year, but how Brian Bedgood got his third hole-in-one in six weeks?

Wasn't it a couple of days ago when a football coach at a high school better noted for its soccer program crowed about his team's win, saying "we have a better record than the soccer team does?" Then the football team went out and lost its next two games.

Didn't Chuck Gordon tell Lloyd Carr just a few days ago that his team would love to take on those pantywaists from Ann Arbor and not to bring the weak stuff?

Wasn't it a few weeks ago that CC dropped to 3-3 and everyone was talking about how the Shamrocks were finally going to miss the playoffs?

Didn't Dan O'Meara just say the other day how much he was

looking forward to actually spending a Thanksgiving weekend doing nothing but sitting on the couch watching cartoons?

Didn't Judy Tomasaitis pick on me a few days ago for picking her husband's Redford Union team to lose?

Wasn't it last week someone wrote me that my reporting was horrible? Oh yeah, that was last week.

Is it really over?

Can we start all over again?

Speaking of fun, I'm still atop the playoff standings as a 2-1 record for the week moved me to 17-2 overall. Just behind is Farmington's O'Meara at 15-4 (3-0 for the week), then Livonia-Westland's Brad Emons (3-0) and Plymouth-Canton's C.J. Risk, both at 14-5 (2-1).

### SATURDAY FINALS

(All games at Pontiac Silverdome)

DIVISION 1: Catholite Central (10-3) vs. Ulfes Eisenhower (12-3), 2 p.m.

Gez... I just don't know. That little voice inside my head that keeps telling me to pick against CC just needs to shut the heck up. After all, in the seven-game winning streak, the Shamrocks have outscored their opponents by an average of 37-8. Throw in the fact that only one public school team from Macomb County has ever won a state title - Warren Woods-Tower in 1978 - well before Eisenhower's current crop of players were born.

And there is the revenge factor, too.

The Eagles have been the Division 1 runner-up for the last two years and still have last season's 17-15 loss to Grand Ledge sticking in their craw. But CC also has revenge to motivate it - in the form of a 14-13 loss to Eisenhower in the semifinals last year.

Gez... CC athletic director Bob Santello implored me to keep picking against the Shamrocks. I just don't know... PICKS: CC - Emons, O'Meara; Eisenhower - Beaudry, Risk.

DIVISION 5: Clarencville (13-0) vs. Jackson Lumen Christi (12-0), 5 p.m. Without a doubt, I think this is going to be the best game of the weekend, it will be the answer to the old question: "What happens when the irresistible force meets the immovable object?"

As evidence, I give you people's exhibit A: Lumen Christi has outscored opponents 502-118 during the season and 166-40 in the playoffs, while Clarencville has a 500-101 edge for the whole year, but only 132-74 in the postseason.

While Clarencville has been an offensive juggernaut this year, the Trians haven't been too shabby either, as evidenced by a 47-21 outbumping of Division 6 finalist Detroit DePores. There is also this little matter of Lumen Christi winning four state titles and being the defending Division 5 champion.

As much as I'd love to say otherwise, the verdict is: PICKS: Clarencville - Emons, Risk; Lumen Christi - Beaudry, O'Meara.

DIVISION 7: Fortpout (13-0) vs. Farmington Hills Harrison (13-0), 8 p.m. Forget the records and forget the rankings.

There is one big reason that Harrison has come as far as it has this year. And every player will get down on one knee and thank her for it.

This one is for Fran Harrington. Pass the trophy. PICKS: Harrison - O'Meara, Emons, Risk, Beaudry.

(Beaudry is the Redford-Garden City sports editor for the Observer and can be reached at (734) 953-2100.)

## Eaglets eye 3rd consecutive title

### BY CHRIS MAYER STAFF WRITER

Is three of a kind in the cards for Orchard Lake St. Mary's?

With a win over Chesaning in Friday's Division 4 final at the Pontiac Silverdome, St. Mary's can earn its third consecutive state football championship. The Division 4 title game is set for an 8 p.m. kickoff.

"It was a definitely a goal for the kids. Now, they are there and we have to see what we can

do about it," OLSM head George Porritt said of the Eaglets' quest to three-peat in Division 4. "This thing is hard because you play great football teams all the way through the playoffs."

St. Mary's (12-1) has its sights on the program's fifth overall state football crown. The formula for success this season centers around an efficient, ball-control offense and a ferocious defense that has surrendered only 42 points in the last nine games.

As for Chesaning (12-1), the 1998 Class B champion, the Indians rely on a spread passing offense directed by quarterback Brent Bassham.

Chesaning's road to the Silverdome included a 21-6 semifinal win over DeWitt, avenging a 28-27 loss to DeWitt in Week 9 of the regular season.

OLSM extended its winning streak to 10 games Saturday with a hard-fought, 12-6 victory over Marshall.



# WATCH HILL



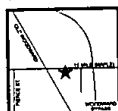
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