

Observer Classifieds work for you!  
(800) 579-SELL

## You could WIN a \$500 FARMER JACK Shopping Spree!



The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers is offering you a chance to win a \$500 Farmer Jack shopping spree by participating in our survey about your Observer or Eccentric newspaper.

We want to improve the content of your hometown news and in order to do that we need to know what you want to read. The survey is fast, fun and easy. Just type in the appropriate website below and give us your opinion. There will be two lucky \$500 grocery winners who will be randomly chosen from the first 200 surveys posted on each website. Complete the survey today and **you could be a lucky winner!**

THE  
**Observer & Eccentric**  
NEWSPAPERS



Contest not open to employees of Observer & Eccentric Newspapers or their families

Observer Readers Use:

[www.pulseresearch.com/observer](http://www.pulseresearch.com/observer)

Eccentric Readers Use:

[www.pulseresearch.com/eccentric](http://www.pulseresearch.com/eccentric)

Enter to win  
**food for your thoughts!**

## CC blasts Rockets in opener

BY BRAD MONASTIERE  
STAFF WRITER

The Redford-Detroit Catholic Central football team started its defense of last year's state championship in fine fashion, and in the same place where it was won.

The Shamrocks encountered little resistance in running their winning streak to eight games with a 44-6 rout of Detroit Crockett Saturday night at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Over the past few years, CC players have become quite comfortable playing in the former home of the Detroit Lions, winning several Prep Bowl and state championships there.

This time, the team opened its season under the Teflon roof, and looked very much like the more comfortable, organized team on the field.

Despite the wide margin of victory — which would have been wider if not for the running clock throughout the final 14 minutes of the game — CC coach Tom Mach said there was plenty of room for improvement for his team after one game.

"I'm not happy with the way we moved the ball, but we did do a good job of taking advantage of their mistakes," he said. "I'd like to see us put together longer drives with more consistency."

In some cases, CC couldn't help but have short touchdown drives, thanks to a number of mistakes by the Rockets, particularly on special teams.

Twenty-three of CC's 44 points came directly off mistakes by Crockett's punting unit; a safety in the first quarter; the subsequent kickoff after the safety led to a touchdown; an interception return for a touchdown, a minus-3 yard punt that led to a short TD drive; and a punt return for a touchdown by senior Kevin McKee.

McKee said it was important for the team to get an attacking mentality when other teams make mistakes.

"That's always crucial in a game, to score points off their mistakes," McKee said. "We've got to put points on the board in any way we can."

CC's first points of the season came off a botched snap on a punt attempt by the Rockets, making the score a baseball-like 2-0 midway through the first quarter. The snap was fumbled out of the back of the end zone, which is a safety by rule.

The Shamrocks then marched down the field in a classic CC-like drive, spanning 48 yards on nine plays to up the score to 9-0. CC quarterback

David Thomas completed a 23-yard pass to Kyle Smith to set up the score, a one-yard plunge by Darnell Tyson.

Crockett responded with a scoring drive of its own, making it a 9-6 game early in the second quarter. But that would be the last time the Rockets would be within striking distance of the Shamrocks.

A fumbled punt return by the Rockets allowed a CC drive to stay alive, leading to its next score. The recovery gave CC the ball at the 23-yard line, and a 16-6 lead just three plays later. Derrick Brooks plowed through the line for a 4-yard score.

On Crockett's next drive, it was the CC defense cashing in on a mistake. Dan Moore picked off a pass and returned it 91 yards for the score. The pick stopped Crockett's longest drive of the game, and appeared to deflate a team that was falling behind faster by the minute.

With a little over two minutes left in the first half, Crockett tried to salvage something positive going into the locker room. But a punt that netted minus-3 yards killed any chance of that.

The Rockets started on their own 16 and went nowhere. By the time the punt was downed, the Shamrocks had the ball on Crockett's 12-yard line. Just three plays later, Tyson scored his second touchdown of the day from 5 yards out, giving his team a 30-6 lead at intermission.

"I was very upset with the penalties we had in the first half," Mach said. "But I was pleased with the way we came to play. We had good practices all week. With first games, you never know how things are going to go. Everyone was a little nervous coming out here, but we're definitely happy with the win."

Sophomore Eric Vojtkofsky capped CC's next scoring drive at the 4:50 mark of the third quarter, with three runs that totaled 21 yards.

McKee finished off the scoring with a 50-yard punt return for a touchdown late in the third quarter. He shook off two tacklers, reversed his field and outran the rest of the Rockets on his way to the end zone.

"At first I didn't see any space," he said. "But then I cut back, saw a hole and just ran for it."

Crockett gained just 7 total yards in the second half and 68 for the game. Brooks led the Shamrocks with 53 yards on 11 carries. Tyson picked up 28 yards on seven attempts.

CC hosts London (Ontario) Catholic Central 7 p.m. Friday at Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day.

lmonastiere@oehome.com | (734) 953-2106

### TRYOUTS

#### SOUTH FARMINGTON BLUES

The South Farmington Blues will have tryouts for the following age groups on Saturday, Sept. 14: 9-and-under, noon at Founders Park, field No. 4, manager John Bateman (476-6239); 15-and-under, 3 p.m. at Harrison High School, manager Jim Clark (471-5768); 16-and-under, noon at Harrison High School, manager Greg Anderson (477-5096).

#### 16-UNDER PANTHERS

Two-day tryouts for the 2003 Michigan Panthers 16-and-

under travel baseball team will be 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 7-8, at Harrison High School (12 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt).

The team will play approximately 45 games in league and tournament play. Last season's 15-and-under team competed in an AABC district tournament.

For more information, call coach Bill Richards 6-9 p.m. weekdays or 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekends at (248) 344-2792.

#### 15-UNDER PANTHERS

The 15-and-under Michigan

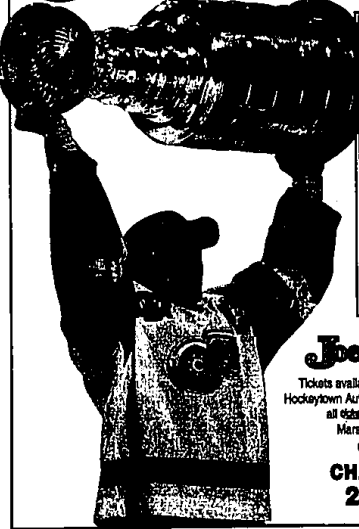
Panthers travel baseball team will have tryouts for the 2003 season at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, and Sunday, Sept. 15, at Walled Lake Middle School.

Players are asked to arrive a half hour early for registration. Call Dan Perry at (734) 855-2104 or Gary Maxey at (248) 444-8118 with any questions.

#### MADNESS DEVILS

Tryouts for the 12-and-under Farmington Madness Devils girls fastpitch softball team will be in late September. For more information call Terry Gardner at (248) 553-7078.

## HEY HOCKEYTOWN



Pre-Season Tickets for your 2002  
Stanley Cup Champion Detroit Red Wings  
ON SALE NOW!!

Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 24  
vs. TORONTO • 7:30PM

Friday, SEPTEMBER 27  
vs. DALLAS • 7:30PM

Tuesday, OCTOBER 1  
vs. ST. LOUIS • 7:30PM

Thursday, OCTOBER 3  
vs. BUFFALO • 7:30PM

Saturday, OCTOBER 5  
vs. CHICAGO • 7:30PM

**Joe Louis Arena**

Tickets available at the Joe Louis Arena box office, Hockeytown Authentics in Troy (without service charges), all ~~retail~~ Ticket Centers including Marshall Field's or by logging on to [detroitredwings.com](http://detroitredwings.com)

**CHARGE BY PHONE  
248.645.6666**