

O & E STAFF'S FOOTBALL PICKS

WEEK 7	Jim Toth	Marty Budner	Tim Smith	Dan Stickerdt	Ken Abramczyk	Dan O'Meara
FRIDAY						
Troy at Roch. Adams	Adams	Adams	Adams	Adams	Adams	Adams
R.O. Kimball at W. Bloomfield	W. Bloomfield	W. Bloomfield	W. Bloomfield	Kimball	W. Bloomfield	W. Bloomfield
W. Kettering at Southfield Lathrup	Lathrup	Lathrup	Lathrup	Lathrup	Lathrup	Lathrup
Birmingham Groves at Southfield Groves	Groves	Groves	Southfield	Southfield	Groves	Groves
B.H. Lahser at Hazel Park	Lahser	Lahser	Lahser	Lahser	Lahser	Lahser
B.H. Andover at Clawson	Andover	Andover	Andover	Andover	Andover	Andover
Farmington Harrison at Lake Orion	Lake Orion	Lake Orion	Harrison	Lake Orion	Lake Orion	Lake Orion
Farmington at Stoney Creek	Farmington	Farmington	Farmington	Farmington	Farmington	Farmington
Rochester at Waterford Mott	Mott	Mott	Rochester	Rochester	Mott	Rochester
Avondale at Madison	Avondale	Avondale	Avondale	Avondale	Avondale	Avondale
Troy Athens at Clarkston	Clarkston	Clarkston	Clarkston	Clarkston	Clarkston	Clarkston
Oxford at Linden	Oxford	Oxford	Oxford	Oxford	Oxford	Oxford
Ferndale at N. Farmington	N. Farmington	N. Farmington	N. Farmington	N. Farmington	N. Farmington	N. Farmington
SATURDAY						
R.H. Lutheran NW at R. St. Agatha	St. Agatha	St. Agatha	St. Agatha	St. Agatha	Lutheran NW	St. Agatha
G.P. Liggitt at Cranbrook Kingswood	Cranbrook	Cranbrook	Cranbrook	Cranbrook	Cranbrook	Cranbrook
Birm. Seaholm vs. Pontiac Northern	Seaholm	Pontiac Northern	Pontiac Northern	Pontiac Northern	Pontiac Northern	Seaholm
O.L. St. Mary's at Warren DeLaSalle	St. Mary's	St. Mary's	St. Mary's	St. Mary's	St. Mary's	St. Mary's
D. Country Day vs. Birm. Brother Rice	Brother Rice	Brother Rice	Brother Rice	Brother Rice	Brother Rice	Brother Rice
LAST WEEK	12-7 (.631)	13-6 (.684)	11-8 (.578)	11-8 (.578)	12-7 (.631)	10-9 (.526)
SEASON TOTAL	77-30 (.719)	80-27 (.747)	72-35 (.672)	73-34 (.682)	80-27 (.747)	79-28 (.738)

Adams sees stock rise after big victory

They have made me a believer.

Coach Jim DeJager's Adams Highlanders have been on the verge of stardom each of the past two seasons and several times in DeJager's 11 years at the school, but have always managed to fall short when the stakes were at their highest.

Not last Friday. The senior-laden squad showed its maturity in the toughest task to date when the group rallied for victory over the kings of all defending champions - Farmington Harrison.

Adams teams of the past might have dodged when yielding three touchdowns in three minutes and handing over the lead. But backed by the leadership and determination of quarterback Mike Jones and fullback Mike LePage, the Highlanders proved to prep followers across the state they must be mentioned in the same breath with the top contenders for a state title.

Oh, by the way, included in that same breath with the Highlanders are the Dragons of Lake Orion. They come up on the Adams schedule next Friday.

(Last week's picks: 12 right, 7 wrong. Season mark: 77 right, 30 wrong.)

Troy at Rochester Adams (7 p.m. Friday): The Highlanders were a confident bunch going into last week and now, after beating Harrison, get to display that excitement in front of the home fans on Homecoming night.

A well-rounded offense guided by QB Mike Jones will cause headaches for a Colts squad that has faced Clarkston and Lake Orion the past two weeks.

PICK ADAMS: Royal Oak Kimball at West Bloomfield (7 p.m. Friday): The Lakers have been wading through an up and down season, and with a pair of disappearing acts in a row, they reap what they sow.

PICK WEST BLOOMFIELD: Waterford Kettering at Southfield Lathrup (7 p.m. Friday): It hasn't been the happiest of appointments for the Chargers, so anytime a feeling opponent comes limping in, it's certainly time to take advantage.

PICK LATHRUP: Birmingham Groves at Southfield (7 p.m. Friday): It hasn't been the happiest of seasons for the Blue Jays either, and with a Falcons squad geared to win a third straight, the disappointment continues.

PICK GROVES: Bloomfield Hills Lahser at Hazel Park (7

p.m. Friday): Go ahead Vikings pick your poison - Brett Bellevue, Ken Chapman, Adam Berman or Abdulh Babar. They're all dangerous and ready to send the Knights onto their seventh straight victory.

PICK LAHSER: Bloomfield Hills Andover at Clawson (7 p.m. Friday): Both teams are coming off league victories, but only one has a lot at stake. The Barons need a victory bad to remain just one game behind league-leading Lahser, which comes up on the Barons schedule in two weeks.

PICK ANDOVER: Farmington Harrison at Lake Orion (7 p.m. Friday): The Hawks could have never dreamed when joining the GAA they would have to face the top two teams in the state on back-to-back weekends. Well, they are and they will feel the same results once the mighty Dragons get done with them.

PICK LAKE ORION: Farmington at Stoney Creek (7 p.m. Friday): The Falcons are unbeaten on the season and Danny Preston and company are not about to let the Cougars spoil their fun.

PICK FARMINGTON: Rochester at Waterford Mott (7 p.m. Friday): These two teams can't even figure themselves out, so how can it? The home field has to be worth something - like a win.

PICK MOTT: Avondale at Madison (7:30 p.m. Friday): The Yellow Jackets had been making some noise with a pair of victories before last week's disappointing results with Clawson. Well, the winless Eagles provide the Jackets the opportunity to start buzzing again.

PICK AVONDALE: Troy Athens at Clarkston (7 p.m. Friday): Why not? If the old up and down theory can work in college and the pros, it can work for the Rednecks and Wolves.

PICK CLARKSTON: Oxford at Linden (7 p.m. Friday): The Wildcats need this one to enhance their post-season resume.

PICK OXFORD: Ferndale at North Farmington (7 p.m. Friday): The Raiders had two weeks to prepare for this game, so they better be ready.

PICK NORTH FARMINGTON: R.H. Lutheran Northwest at Redford St. Agatha (7 p.m. Saturday): The Crusaders got their taste of victory last week. Unfortunately, it's back to the same old serving of defeat.

PICK ST. AGATHA/BORGESS: Grosse Pointe Liggitt at Cranbrook Kingswood (7 p.m. Saturday): Cranes OS Brian Karak has done a great job of being in the pass with the run and minding up opposing defenses. That combination works one again as the Cranes earn their playoff clinking sixth win.

PICK CRANBROOK KINGSWOOD: Birmingham Seaholm vs. Pontiac Northern at Winder Stadium (2 p.m. Saturday): The return of Aaron Cooper sparked last week's win and his presence plays a major role in this win.

PICK SEAHOLM: Orchard Lake St. Mary's at Warren DeLaSalle (7 p.m. Saturday): Last week's victory over the top-ranked Seaholms is just what coach George Porritt needed to get his flaglets going. They carry that momentum over to down the Pilots.

PICK ST. MARY'S: Country Day vs. Brother Rice at Birmingham Seaholm (7 p.m. Saturday): The Yellow Jackets will give the Warriors all they can handle.

PICK BROTHER RICE: Jim Toth is the sports editor for the Troy and Rochester Eccentric newspapers. He can be reached at (248) 901-2578.

Jim Toth

Prep grid picks

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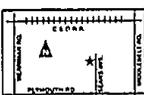
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FOOTBALL

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pulled the Chiefs within seven points, 19-12.

The Falcons answered with a 9-yard scoring run by Henry Martin at the end of a 50-yard drive to make the score 25-12 with seven minutes left.

Following an interception by Chase Kowalski that gave Farmington possession at the Central 25 several minutes later, Farmington added a 1-yard TD run by Eric Halstead.

The Chiefs outgained the Falcons, 203-155, but had more than half their yards on two plays. The Falcons were led by their defense, which had four interceptions and consistently gave the offense good field position.

"We worked from a short field a lot," Bechtel said. "(Central) couldn't really run the ball. Nobody has been able to successfully run on us. They were forced to throw, and they threw four of them to us."

"We got up on the first series, and the defense kept us in it again. They just took over."

In the first quarter, Farmington led 7-0 after Brad Walsh caught a fumble and Ben Berche returned it 49 yards for a TD. Jeff Fischer kicked the extra point.

The Falcons added a safety

inter in the quarter when a high snap went over the Central punter's head into the end zone. Danny Preston was given credit for the two points.

Pontiac quarterback Todd Rankin and Antoine Carr connected for a 71-yard TD pass in the second quarter to make the halftime score 9-6.

Farmington's Sherman Taylor blocked the PAT.

After a short punt by the Chiefs, the Falcons had a 30-yard scoring drive that ended with an 8-yard run by Martin. Kacey Lopata's PAT and a 19-yard field goal later in the third quarter made it 19-6.

Preston rushed for 61 yards on 16 carries, Martin 44 on six. Besides the fumble recovery, Berche had two interceptions and was involved in 11 tackles. Farmington had seven first downs, Pontiac three.

"The key to Farmington's success has been the competence of each player at every position, according to Bechtel.

"When you have a high quality football team, the players can count on their teammates to do their job," he said. "When that starts happening, every individual player is focusing on his job only and can rely on the guy next to him to do his part."

"It is the key to our success. We've made it our mission all year long to make the Farmington football team the star and not any one player."

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Coaching vacancies

Farmington Public Schools are looking for the following coaches for the winter sports seasons: an assistant boys swimming coach, two assistant wrestling coaches and freshman, junior varsity and varsity volleyball coaches.

Interested parties should send a letter of interest and resume to Ron Holland, 33000 Thomas, Farmington, MI, 48336 or by fax at (248) 474-3802.