

Trojans perfect 8-0 in Metro Conference

Livonia Clarenceville wrapped up its fourth consecutive unbeaten football season in the Metro Conference Friday with a 16-8 triumph over visiting Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

The 8-1 Trojans, last year's Division 5 state runner-up, will also be making their fifth straight playoff appearance.

Clarenceville, despite losing three fumbles, is 32-0 in the Metro Conference over the past four years.

"The Trojans' junior tailback

Jeff Fioretti ran for 147 yards in 28 carries and two touchdowns in the muddy track. He scored on a pair of 1-yard touchdown runs.

Cranbrook (6-3, 5-3) struck on its first series when Ryan Karolak scampered 56 yards and converted on the two-point play for an 8-0 first-quarter lead for the Cranes.

Fioretti answered with his first TD in the second period and added the two-point conversion on a dive play.

In the third quarter, Fioretti

scored what proved to be the game-winning TD. Quarterback Josh Silvernail hit tight end Ryan Bierschbach for the two-point conversion.

In the final period, Clarenceville's Aaron Allison and Justin Robbins each picked off Cranbrook passes to preserve the win.

Defensively, senior line-backer Andrew Shaw had a team-high 17 tackles, while junior defensive tackle Frank Pointer had a season-high

four sacks. Silvernail contributed nine tackles and was 6-of-8 passing for 48 yards.

Clarenceville had the edge in total offense, 222-214. The Trojans rushed for a total of 174 yards.

DELASALLE 3, COUNTRY DAY 0: A victory would have guaranteed Country Day a spot in next week's opening round of the state playoffs, but following Friday's heartbreak, defeat at Warren De La Salle, the Yellow Jackets must now sit and wait.

Robert Miller's 34-yard field goal with 0:09 remaining proved to be the difference

in the game on a rainy night in Birmingham.

The defeat left the Yellow Jackets holding a 4-4 record and hoping their strength of schedule allows them to sneak into post-season play.

"We have to hope for some luck," OCO coach Dan Maclean.

"They (De La Salle) played the kind of game they had to play," Maclean said. "We never moved the ball and never had any really good chances."

Maclean offered praise for his defense, primarily the efforts of Jay Laybourne.

For De La Salle, the win was No. 6 on the season and assured the Pilots of a playoff berth.

LUMEN CHRISTI 25, OLSM 14: Orchard Lake St. Mary's 2002 football season came to a

close Thursday in Jackson.

The Eagles couldn't protect a 7-0 half-time lead as Gaelen Callahan-led Jackson Lumen Christi rallied for a 25-14 victory at Wilkinson Community Stadium.

OLSM (3-6) dropped its final three games following a 13-0 win over Redford Catholic Central in Week 6.

Callahan scored on runs of 7 and 34 yards during a 35-second span of the third quarter.

The second touchdown was set up by a St. Mary's fumble on a kickoff.

B.J. Carter's 2-yard touchdown run with 2:55 left in the third quarter gave the Titans a 19-7 advantage.

OLSM closed within 19-14 on Josh Martin's 15-yard run, but the Eagles would get no closer.

RAIDERS

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steady rain turning the middle of the field to mud, both offenses struggled to move the ball.

But the Raiders were a little more successful, outgaining the Falcons 113-92 on the ground and 47-3 through the air.

"Coach (offensive coordinator Rick) Lee keeps harping on that to the kids - that we're going to be able to throw the ball in any conditions," Burrell said. "We practice that and it certainly was the difference."

As Burrell predicted, mistakes also played a role, especially given the weather and playing conditions.

"The Falcons lost three fumbles, the Raiders two; Farmington was penalized five times for 60 yards, North two for 10."

"When you play in conditions like that, it's the team that will be successful is the team that makes fewer mistakes, and we had way too many turnovers and penalties," Farmington coach John Bechtel said.

"They made one big play and we didn't. When conditions are like that, that's the difference in the game. They played well; they deserved to win that ballgame."

After an exchange of fumbles in the second quarter, North capitalized on Steve Kahn's recovery at the Farmington 45-yard line for a six-play scoring drive.

Smith, who was 4-of-9 passing, connected with tight end Will Hathaway for a 15-

yard gain to the 21.

After two running plays went nowhere, McComb caught the TD pass in the end zone with 3:06 left in the half.

A Farmington defensive back was positioned in front of McComb, but he slipped and fell as the ball arrived.

In the third quarter, North drove to the Farmington 14, but Lambert was wide on an attempted field goal from 31 yards. Other than that, neither team threatened to score.

The Falcons got the ball for the final time at the Raiders' 48 with 4:13 remaining, but four straight pass plays resulted in in completions.

On third down for North, a personal foul penalty against the Falcons gave the Raiders a first down and allowed them to run out the clock with 1:35 left.

"There was no doubt they played well defensively," Bechtel said.

"They did what they had to do, and that was to play nine people in the box."

"They had to do that to shut us down and, because of the conditions, we were unable to get the ball to the perimeter."



North Farmington's Gary Kennedy recovers a fumble, one of three Farmington turnovers. Teammate Marcus McComb is on top of the play, too.

strong and tough running team like Farmington to under a hundred yards it's a big victory for us," Burrell said.

"We have a couple guys we call the Mighty Midgets (linebackers Brandon Sitto and Kahn)."

"They came up real big tonight, playing against a bigger and more physical team."

North tailback Marcus Thornton gained 46 of his 52 yards in the second half and was instrumental in the Raiders doing a better job of controlling the ball.

Ken Uy added 42 yards on nine carries, Smith 19 on 18 runs; Thornton rushed 16 times.

"Part of (Thornton's) production, too, is the offensive line," Burrell said.

"They really stepped it up. At halftime they tell us what they think will work, and we came up with a couple different options."

"Marcus ran hard and held on to the ball. He got some key first downs, and that kept the clocking running."

Bechtel gave the Raiders credit for winning the game

and didn't blame the loss on the field conditions.

"We didn't lose because it was muddy," he said. "We lost because they outexecuted us tonight."

"The slow field and mud hurt our ability to run the counter and pull off game reads. But, above all else, it was turnovers and penalties. There was no doubt they were the better team tonight."

Both teams had qualified for the playoffs prior to Friday night, and there's a chance the two could meet again later this week in a district tournament game.

"Beating a quality Farmington team definitely gives us momentum going into next week and a lot of confidence," Burrell said.

"I think we'll be ready to play next week regardless of who we play," Bechtel said.

"Knowing our kids, my guess is they're going to rebound and respond in a positive manner, because they don't like the feeling they have right now."

WOODS

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time when Adams scored from 5 yards at the end of a nine-play, 59-yard drive with 4:06 left in the second quarter.

After Harrison stopped West Bloomfield (4-5) to start the second half, Woods scored his final TD at 7:15 in the third.

Charles Pickett, who rushed eight times for 93 yards and three TDs, scored the next two TDs on runs of 9 and 20 yards late in the third period, boosting the Hawks' lead to 48-13.

Adams passed 55 yards to Zach Hillers at 10:57 in the fourth. Pickett scored his third TD at 6:49, and Harrison's Chris Sutton picked up a blocked punt and returned it 6 yards for a touchdown with 2:09 remaining. Clay Richeson added the PAT to account for the 61-20 score.

Harrison had 411 rushing yards and 23 passing.

Glanmum completed four of seven passes. West Bloomfield had 207 yards on the ground and 156 through the air. Adams was 4-of-13; Ethan Bennett caught two passes for 74 yards.

Zerbo led the Harrison defense with eight tackles. Brandon Willer and Pickett had six stops each. Struble and Mike Sacha had pass interceptions; Willer and Remy Sulaiman had fumble recoveries.

The 12-time state champion Hawks now begin preparation for their 21st appearance in the post-season playoffs. Harrison will be trying for its sixth consecutive state title.

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