

Plymouth Captures Grid Opener, 17-0; Big Rival Next

By FRED DELANO

Renewal of the long standing rivalry between Livonia Bentley and Plymouth, both first game winners, will share the Suburban Eight limelight Friday night as the league moves into a full round-robin weekend action.

The title minded Rocks will be seeking their third straight victory over Bentley and will have a home field advantage as they turn loose the corps of stars headed by Ron Egloff, Steve Crowther, Steve Robb, Mark Allen and Jeff Horton who paced last week's 17-0 triumph over Bloomfield Hills Andover.

Bentley also has a shutout to its credit, 12-0 over Madison Heights Lamphere, and the two long touchdown drives that accounted for that victory have Plymouth Coach Tom Moshier printing his Rocks for an improved defensive showing over their Andover performance.

Although Bloomfield Hills penetrated as far as Plymouth's 26 yard line only once — and that early in the game. Andover proved Plymouth particularly vulnerable to counter stuff between the tackles. Brad Berlin, Tom Haynes and Jim Neal netted 114 yards mostly on such slashes.

PLYMOUTH'S OWN highly touted offense failed to put any points on the board until the third quarter, finally getting uncoiled when the Rocks turned Crowther loose for 46 yards on a quick lineup on the first play from scrimmage after the second half kickoff. This put the Rocks on Andover's 21 and it took seven line thrusts from there to put over, Crowther going the last four yards around left end behind a smashing Egloff block.

Jim Szilagyi, Plymouth's injured first string quarterback from last season, kicked the extra point to make it 7-0 only 2:59 into the half. Szilagyi did not play at all at quarterback, yielding to Robb who completed three of seven passes (all to Egloff) and ran six times for 15 yards.

Before the third period was over the Rocks started another drive, going 56 yards to bring a 15-yard field goal from Szilagyi at 1:39 of the final quarter. Two Robb passes of 30 and nine yards to all-state prospect Egloff sparked this march to make it 10-0.

THE ROCKS came right back as Bill White recovered Bentley's fumble on the kickoff at the Andover 16, Allen going 10 yards for a touchdown three plays later with Szilagyi again converting.

The alert Rocks also recovered two other Andover fumbles. Robb and Jim Baron

doing the damage. Offensively they netted 174 yards on the ground and 65 through the air. Crowther leading the ground attack with 78 yards in 10 carries.

Defensively, Plymouth improved as the game progressed and the troops led by Scott Bacon and Tom Grace threw Andover ball carriers for losses seven times in the second half.

The Suburban Eight title race will start to take shape Friday with a card that includes Redford Union at Belleville, Trenton at Allen Park and Edsel Ford at Dearborn besides Bentley at Plymouth. All loop teams except RU and Allen Park won their openers.

The Friday night Bentley-Plymouth football game at Plymouth will be televised on Channel 56 at 10 p.m. the same night. The game is slated for 8 p.m. with Channel 56 carrying it two hours later.

Swim Meet

By TOM DONOCHUE Sports Editor

Farmington High edged Harrison in breakout plays, with a 70 yard punt return and 52 yard pass play telling the story of the opening 14-6 victory.

Harrison's only score came on a 42 yard pass. It was the battle between two neighborhood teams with

neither team dominating the action.

"Both squads were really tight," said Farmington Coach Hal Beardsey. "Little errors appeared greatly multiplied."

Farmington picked up 137 yards on the ground with QB Bob Holton hitting two of three passes for 54 yards.

HARRISON chalked up 70 yards rushing and quarterback Chris Pagnucco had a rough day in the passing department with the Falcon line and backfield constantly hemming him in.

The Falcons struck paydirt the second time they eluded Harrison when he eluded Harrison with a punt into the end zone at the Farmington 46. The kick was deep in Farmington territory with no runback but an illegal motion penalty nullified the play and Tim Turney had to punt again.

The ball sailed off the side of Turney's foot 21 yards to the Falcon 30.

SEAN HARTE gobbled up the kick and took off for the sidelines. Blocking was there and Harte scampered 70 yards to put Farmington on the board.

Steve Koinis' extra point attempt was wide.

Harrison came right back

on a drive started from its own 20.

Pagnucco hit Ernie Nicolay with short passes and at the end of the first quarter Harrison was on the Farmington 15.

Chuck Varber spurred to the 10 and Turney drove to the five on two short bursts, for a Hawk first down.

Next came the play that turned the tables. PAGNUCCO pitched to Bill Herpich, but the ball was thrown behind the halfback and bobbed loose with Farmington's Ken Nelson jumping on it on the Hawk 15.

Harrison halted Farmington and got its hands on the ball when Bill Marra booted a punt into the wind straight up in the air for 13 yards and the Hawks had the ball on the 37.

The first play from scrimmage saw Pagnucco pitch again to Herpich and the ball squirted loose with Farmington's Dean Walsh jumping on it to halt another Hawk drive.

The first half ended with Farmington up 6-0.

The Falcons had rushed for 63 yards and attempted only one pass that went astray. Farmington collected two first downs but was penalized 53 yards.

Harrison meanwhile put together more of a driving attack with fumbles killing

any chances for a score. The Hawks piled up 62 yards on the ground and 23 in the air for a total of four first downs.

FARMINGTON got caught midway through the third quarter with an un-sportsmanlike penalty pushing the Falcons back to their 15.

A George Blouin punt carried to the Falcon 42 where Harrison took control.

Pagnucco dropped back and lobbed a pass to Craig Perkins who dashed 42 yards for the score.

On the extra point attempt, Dave Norton fumbled the snap and Perkins didn't get an opportunity to get a kick off and with 1:09 left in the third stanza, it was 6-6.

Harrison's Dave Wallington recovered a Falcon fumble but a Pagnucco pass was picked off to halt a scoring opportunity.

With only 53 seconds gone in the final quarter, Holton completed a 52 yard touchdown pass to Al Firek and the Falcons were back in command. Holton hit Brian Ratliff for the two-pointer and that's the way it finished, 14-6.

The Ratliff brothers dominated the Farmington running game with junior Brian rushing for 84 yards in 11 carries and senior Ken chalking up 34 yards.

Same Ol' Football Story, Falcons Topple Harrison

HARRISON FUMBLE -- Halfback Bill Herpich (20) of Harrison moves in pursuit of a wild pitchout from OB Chris Pagnucco with Farmington's Ken Nelson (66), Dennis Detrich (40) and Kevin Schaefer (77) on the prowl. The Hawk mishap caused a touchdown with Harrison losing to Farmington, 14-6. Farmington's Nelson recovered the ball. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

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But Fullback Quits East Wins, 27-0

Garden City East opened its football campaign with a 27-0 victory over Riverside but

East Coach Gary Humphrey wasn't smiling in the Panther locker room after the game.

His senior fullback Ray Hassen decided to hang up his football spikes.

"It was really a shock," said Humphrey. "Here I have worked with the kid the past seven weeks and he goes out and plays a good first game, picking up our touch yardage, we win and he quits after the game."

Hassen picked up 47 yards in eight carries.

"After the game he told me that he just didn't enjoy playing football anymore," added Humphrey. "He said it wasn't fun."

EAST GOES AFTER its second win this week against Flint Central and Humphrey is faced with the task of finding another starting fullback.

"We have all sorts of adjustments to make between now and Saturday," said Humphrey.

Senior Lou Santos and junior Don McIntyre are the top candidates for the now vacant slot.

East held Riverside to only one first down in the first half, and three overall.

The Panthers struck for three touchdowns in the third quarter to break the game open with Paul Hayden hauling in two Orr touchdowns and Burton scoring on a power play.

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