

Falcons will field balanced track squad

By TOM BAER
When it comes to track, Farmington High's fans like to remember distance runner Mike McGuire, a 1974 graduate, who is now running well for the University of Michigan's team.

Farmington's track team won't have any super stars like McGuire this spring, but coach Gerald Young feels his squad has enough talent returning to at least equal last season's 7.4 overall record.

"We won't have any stars, but we'll have a well-balanced team with decent kids in every event," said Young, who is working with more than 50 varsity track men. "We have lots of young kids. In fact our depth is in youngsters. We have half way decent kids in every event. After that it's mostly youngsters."

Two promising returnees are seniors Arno Set and Stuart Glatfelter. Glatfelter is the Inter Lakes League's two-mile champ. Others are hurdlers Brian Steustloff and Mike Tanna, sprinter and long jumper Vance Gutierrez, sprinter Ron Hill, half miler Mike Gallagher, shotputter Kevin Hanson, and polevaulter Mark Popp. Danna and Hanson are juniors.

"We could have good strong years from a lot of these kids," Young said. "Gutierrez and Hanson are outstanding prospects. Set and Gallagher should have outstanding years if they can stay free from injuries. That was a problem last year."

"WE'RE STARTING from scratch in the high jump and we should have some problems with depth in the sprints. Those are our weak areas," Young added.

Last season Farmington finished second behind Pontiac Northern in the six team I.L.L. Lavinia Stevenson beat Farmington in a dual meet, but the Falcons beat Stevenson where it really counted—in the league meet at the end of the season. Northern always a track powerhouse should have little trouble defending its title, Young believes.

"Northern is real tough," he said. "In fact, some people believe Northern could have one of the best if not the best high school track team in the state. They have a lot of kids coming back, especially sprinters, quarter milers and long jumpers. And they have two outstanding transfers from Holly."

"Northern always has speed coming out of its ears. Lavinia Stevenson will have a strong team and so will we. But I don't see either one of us touching Northern."

Farmington opens its season at the Huron Relays March 27 at Eastern Michigan's Bowen Fieldhouse. The Falcons begin their dual meet season April 7 at home against Southfield High. A Class A track regional will be held at Farmington on May 22. The I.L.L. meet is scheduled for May 25 at Milford Lakesland.

FARMINGTON TRACK

March 27	Huron Relays EMU	9 a.m.
April 3	Spartan Relays MSU	9 a.m.
April 7	Southfield High	4 p.m.
April 9	Manfield Relays	9 a.m.
April 11	Waterford Prep	4 p.m.
April 20	at Redford Union	4 p.m.
May 1	O&E Relays RUHS	10 a.m.
May 5	W.L. Central	4 p.m.
May 7	Waterford Relays	4 p.m.
May 11	Detroit Redford	4 p.m.
May 14	at Milford Lakesland	4 p.m.
May 15	Lahser Relays	10 a.m.
May 19	Pontiac Northern	4 p.m.
May 22	Farmington Regional	10 a.m.
May 28	County Meet Lahser	10 a.m.
June 1	IDHS NFHS	4 p.m.
June 5	Class A Finals	

More previews
on Thursday

Harrison trackmen seek winning season

By TOM BAER
Considering its past track record, Farmington Harrison is one of those teams with nowhere to go but up.

And up is just where it will go if second year coach Tom Shalla's hopes materialize this season.

"When I took over as track coach last year, I hoped we'd have the program put together by now," said Shalla, whose Hawks jumped to a 1.4 overall record and a 1.4 Western Six League mark last season.

This year and next year were going to be Harrison's years as a track school. That's still my plan, and I think it can happen beginning with this season.

Despite its poor win-loss record last season, Harrison had some fine performers who'll be around this spring. For example, junior Mike Bowden looked good in the shot put and long jump last season. He is also throwing the discus, a new event in Michigan high school track this season.

Another standout from last season is senior distance man Mike Bedford who is better known for his cross country achievements. Unfortunately, Bedford was involved in an automobile accident a few weeks ago.

He's still running around with stitches running on his face, but he seems to be running real well," Shalla said. "He broke

our two-mile track record during a three-mile cross country run last fall. We know that he's going to be darn tough. We're looking for him down in the 9:40s."

MIKE (YOUNG), a junior, set the school's pole vault record last season. "We figure him to be up over 12 feet, maybe close to 13 feet," Shalla said.

Some other returnees from last season are miler Mark Evans, hurdler John Hileman, hurdler and high jumper Jeff Thorne, and half miler and pole vaulter Rick Hinkley. Steve Martin, who was injured for most of last season, could help in the sprints and middle-distance events. But some weaknesses remain, according to Shalla.

"I think we're still going to be weak in the field events," he said. "We're not working like mad on those field events because that's where we were never able to break even in past years."

Shalla has entered selected Harrison trackmen in the Huron Relays at Eastern Michigan University's Bowen Field House March 27. Most of the top teams and individuals from Michigan and Ohio will be competing in the Huron's initial test of the track season.

Harrison opens its dual meet season at

home against Waterford Kettering on April 6. The Hawks' WSL season begins April 15 at Lavinia Churchill.

Last season Churchill and Walled Lake Western finished one-two in the Western Six, which bases its final standings solely on the league meet at the end of the season. Harrison finished last in the league meet, although it did beat Plymouth Canyon in a WSL dual meet.

Churchill and Western look tough again, Shalla said. "Churchill just keeps coming up with talented people and so does Western, which is developing a great track tradition. We were dead last year, but I hope we can surprise a few people this season."

HARRISON TRACK

April 27	Huron Relays EMU	9 a.m.
April 3	Spartan Relays MSU	9 a.m.
April 6	Kettering	4 p.m.
April 8	Brabham	4 p.m.
April 15	at Thurston	4 p.m.
April 15	at Churchill	3 p.m.
April 27	Southfield High	4 p.m.
April 29	W.L. Western	4 p.m.
May 1	O&E Relays RUHS	10 a.m.
May 4	at Northville	4 p.m.
May 11	Groves	4 p.m.
May 15	Lahser Relays	10 a.m.
May 19	Waterford Mott	4 p.m.
May 22	Farmington Regional	10 a.m.
May 25	WSL Meet Canton	4 p.m.
May 28	County Meet Lahser	10 a.m.
June 1	at IDHS NFHS	4 p.m.
June 5	Class A Finals	



Farmington High's Brian Steustloff limbers up before a practice. (Staff photo by Harry Maute)

IN PERSON!

APRIL 11

Rebuilding year for Lahrup track

By TOM BAER
Now that Southfield Lahrup's basketball and hockey teams have been eliminated from state tournament play, it's time to take a look at who will be the school's track hopefuls this spring.

Like most track coaches, Lahrup's Gerald Minewasser is hoping for a stretch of warm weather so he can give his 45 varsity trackmen more outdoor practice before the season opens with the Huron Relays at Eastern Michigan University's Bowen Fieldhouse on April 27.

"We won't be as good as we were last season, unless we have a minor miracle," said Minewasser, whose team compiled an 8.2 overall record to go with a 4.1 Metro Suburban Association mark last season. Lahrup finished second behind Birmingham Groves in the six-team MSA.

"We just graduated too many good kids from that team. But we'll be in there plugging, trying to win as many meets as we can. This won't be our best team ever, but it'll be far from the worst."

One bright prospect is senior sprinter Brian Gould, the league champ in the 100-yard dash and 200-yard dash. "We expect a good year from him," Minewasser said. "He's fast, and he always has been a hard worker."

Quartermilers Mike Driecoll and Dave Smith were second and third respectively in the MSA league meet last season. Driecoll, a senior, finished second behind Rochester Adams' Brian King, who won't be competing this season because a mileage failure wiped out all spring sports in Rochester.

Gary Hawthorne, a senior, is trying to learn to high jump. He could be a good high jumper if his abilities as a rebounder on Lahrup's basketball team are any indication. "He has a great deal of innate jumping ability," Minewasser said. "If he can channel that into high jumping, he'll be a great help to us."

Minewasser has three good pole vaulters: senior Bob Lineweaver, who sat out most of last season with a broken ankle, senior Scott Gergersen, and junior Dave Brank.

Tony Picoratti, another sprinter, has been looking good in the early workouts. "He ran well last year, too, but he was always overshadowed by Brian, Bob and Scott," Minewasser said.

Lahrup graduated some fine distance men, but junior Dave Clifford, an outstanding cross country runner, could come through in the two-mile run this season.

Lahrup has three good half milers in Howard Labe, Sambo and Brad Griffin. "I look for a nice relay team there," Minewasser said. "Those kids were on our championship mile relay team last year."

When it comes to the MSA track race this season, most coaches feel that coach Tom Kearney's Groves team will have little trouble defending its title.

"Groves looks strong with the personnel it has coming back," Minewasser said. "Bloomfield Hills Lahser also looks strong with two or three good kids coming back. After that, it's anybody's race. We have as good a shot at third place as either Royal Oak Dendero or Ulica Eastmoor."

Lahrup's dual meet season begins at home against Waterford Mott on April 6. Lahrup's track schedule hasn't been finalized yet. For one thing, an opponent must be found to replace Rochester Adams, an MSA school which dropped all spring sports.

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