



Mike Miller Mitch Moses Dan Noakes Rich Kramer Jeff Cox Joe English Bill Morgan Tim Paulan Dave Koppin

Despite controversy, track team picked

By JOHN BOZZO

Despite a lot of controversy, the Observer & Eccentric has picked an all-area boys' track team for the first time in two years.

Twelve local coaches showed up for a two-hour long meeting, May 8 in the Birmingham Eccentric office, to pick the team.

Bob Rogers of Cranbrook left early after one of his runners had been left off of the all-area team in two second events.

The Farmington coach was late for the meeting. He asked that the coaches reconsider choices in two events. The coaches voted overwhelmingly not to reconsider any choices on the team.

Among the criteria used to pick the team were: consistency, best performance, performance in events like the county, regional and state tournaments.

Each player who made the team received a majority of votes from coaches. The second and third vote-getters were placed on the second and third teams respectively. There were many long discussions and close decisions.

DAVE WALMROTH of Southfield earned the first-team all-area berth in the shot put event. A junior, Walmroth was second in the regional tournament, third in the Oakland County meet and fifth at the state finals.

Kevin Hansen of Farmington, a senior, had the best distance in the O&E area, 53-10. He was also third in the regional, but illness forced him to miss the state meet. He was chosen second team. Dave House, a senior from Cranbrook, was third with a 49-7 effort.

Joseph of Troy Athens is the first team long jumper. A sophomore, Joseph led the O&E track listings with a 21-6 1/4 leap.

Dan Noakes, a senior from Groves, was second team with 21-4 1/2 and Scott Payne of West Bloomfield, a senior, was third with a 21-3 1/2 throw. Noakes was third and Payne fifth on the O&E performance listings.

In the high jump, another sophomore gained the first team honors, Jon English of Brother Rice. English was unbeaten during the dual meet season and finished second at the state championships with a 6-7 leap. That performance was the second highest on the O&E listing.

Rich Kramer, a Farmington junior, was also unbeaten in dual meets and chosen second team. His highest effort was 6-6, third on the O&E listing. Joseph of Troy Athens led the listings with a 6-7 1/2 effort and was chosen third team.

ANDY LYTLE, a junior from Groves, holds the first team discus position. A consistent performer, Lytle was second in the Oakland County meet. His best effort all season was 156-9, which was third best on the O&E listings.

Bob Levine had the best effort in the area, 158-8. A senior, also from Groves, Levine was chosen second team. Mike Bowden, a Farmington Harrison senior, was third on the listing with a 156-9 effort and was named to the third team.

Andover senior Scott Koepke is the first team pole vaulter. He led the local track listing in that event with a 14-1/2 performance.

Mike Finn, a Brother Rice senior, is second team. Trace Curtis, a Farmington sophomore, is third team. Both Finn and Curtis were tied for the second best pole vault in the area, 13-2.

Rich Kramer of West Bloomfield was an easy choice for first team in the two-mile run. His 9:16.6 best time was 16 seconds faster than anyone else in the area. A senior, Kramer finished third in the regional. He has been invited to participate in a four-state all-star track meet in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Harold Rutila, a Farmington junior, is second team. His 9:32.6 was the second fastest area time. High Leidlien, another Farmington junior, is third team. Leidlien ran a 9:40.1, third best on the list. He was fifth in Oakland County.

In the 330-yard low hurdles, Bob Miller of North Farmington was selected first team. Miller, a senior, was sixth in the state. His 38.1 best time was the tops in the O&E area.

Senior Dan Noakes of Groves was named second team. He was third in the county and ran a 38.7 to place second on the best times list. Ed Washleski, another Groves senior, was third on the list with a 39.1 best time and chosen third team. He was fourth at the county meet.

NORTH FARMINGTON'S 880-yard relay squad earned first team honors. That team was third in the county meet and third at the Lahser Relays. Its 1:30.7 time was the best in the area. Members of that team were Mike Miller, Jeff Cox, Paul Ricci and Bob Miller.

The Groves team of Jim Carr, Tim Paulian, Russ Parks and Eric Miller was second team with 1:30.0 and Lahser's Chris Morgan, Randy Rising, Rob Casalou and Mike Stamps quartet was third team with 1:32.3 best performance. Groves was second and Lahser third on the O&E best times listing.

Bill Morgan of Groves was the only person to rate first team honors in two individual events. He was also a member of Groves' first team mile relay squad. Morgan, a senior, won individual honors in both the 880-yard and mile runs.

In the 800, Morgan's 1:54.8 was the best performance in the area. He was second in the county meet and fourth at the state finals.

Morgan's best performance in the mile, 4:28.8, was the third best in the area. He won the regional in the mile run.

Second team in the 880-yard run was Jim Wilberding of Brother Rice. A senior, Wilberding was second in the listings with a 1:58.2 time, third in the regional and third in the Catholic League championships. Chris Morgan, a Lahser junior, earned third team selection by virtue of his 1:59.8 time, the third best in the area.

Rich Kramer, a West Bloomfield senior, is second team in the mile. He has the best local time in the event, 4:21.9. Harold Rutila, a Farmington junior, was third team with a 4:22.0. His time was the third best in the area.

JEFF COX of West Bloomfield won top honors in the 100-yard dash. His :10.1 time tied for second place on the best times listing. Cox is a sophomore.

Jim Rosenfield, a junior from County Day, also had a :10.1 best time and was chosen second team. Rosenfield was sixth at the Class C-D state meet. Jeff Cohen of North Farmington was named third team. A sophomore, Cohen had the fastest time in the area, 9.9 seconds.

Ken Raby of Southfield took top honors in the 120-yard high hurdles.

His :14.5 time was the best in the area. A junior, Raby was first at the county, regional and Southeastern Michigan Association tournaments.

Bob Miller, a North Farmington junior, was right behind Raby in the best times list with a :14.6 effort. He was named second team. Miller placed seventh in the state finals. Dan Noakes of Groves was named third team. He also had a :14.6 time.

DAVE KOPPIN, a Detroit County Day School senior, had a record that the coaches could not ignore when the 40-yard dash was discussed. His :8.8 time was the fastest in the area and he won the state championship in this event at the Class C-D tournament.

Jim Carr, a Groves senior, had a :50.0 time which was second best on the O&E listing. He was second in the county meet and a natural choice for second team. Marvin Miles of Southfield had a :50.3 best time and was fifth in the county. He was named third team.

North Farmington drew another first-team relay selection when the 440-yard relay was discussed. Mike Miller, Jeff Cohen, Bob Miller and Paul Ricci combined for a :44.1, the

best local time, and a third at the Oakland County meet.

Lahser was second team with a :44.3 time run in the state finals, the second best local time. Randy Rising, Roger Pickens, Mike Stamps and Rob Casalou were on that team. West Bloomfield's team was third with a :44.4 time. Scott Payne, Jeff Cox, Craig Cassman and Kevin Chudler were on that squad.

Mitch Moses of Southfield is first team in the 220-yard dash. His :23.0 time was sixth best in the area. However, the Southfield senior was tough in big events, placing fourth in the county, second in the regional and first in the Southeastern Michigan Association.

Jim Carr of Groves is second team in the 220. His :22.7 was third best locally. He was sixth in the county and first in the Metro Suburban Association. Jeff Cox of West Bloomfield is third team. His :22.5 was the best local time.

FINISHING OFF the all-area team is the mile relay. Birmingham Groves drew the first team honor in that event. Jim Carr, Tim Paulian, Dan Noakes and Bill Morgan were the members of that relay.

Girls team June 23

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Groves' Kearney is top coach

Tom Kearney of Birmingham Groves, the Observer & Eccentric boys track coach of the year, almost didn't coach this past spring.

He resigned the head track coaching position in the winter because of some "problems" in the handling of the program. Following that, the school committed \$4,000 for equipment and provided for more help at dual meets.

"I didn't resign as a ploy to get more money," Kearney said. "There are just certain circumstances under which I will not coach. We worked things out. I felt they were being cooperative with me and I could resume my coaching."

"Coaching is important to me," Kearney said. "But it's not my whole life. It's an outlet—a source of recognition. I've accomplished everything I ever dreamed to accomplish as a coach with the exception of finishing higher in the state finals."

Once this season got under way with Kearney at the helm, Groves went out and equalled last season's record, which was the best in the school's history.

The scorecard this season read: 7-0 dual meet record; second in Huron Relays; first in Ashley Relays (fourth straight); first in the Lahser Relays (second straight); Metro Suburban Association championship (fifth straight); league title; first at Ambrose Relays (third straight); regional championship; third in Oakland County.

"My kids realize they have to work," Kearney said. "I expect a lot out of them. As a coach, I'm a guide, but I can't run the show for them. They've got to do the job, and I'm not going to go around checking up on them."

"The philosophy carries over from year to year," he added. "The juniors and seniors indoctrinate the underclassmen. This year the upperclassmen were upset and came to see me because the sophomores were goofing off. The sophomores then got the message that goofing around is not acceptable behavior."

Kearney was a top runner himself before coaching. His involvement in track, however, began with a casual conversation during his sophomore year in high school.

Don Hoff, long-time track and cross country coach at Bloomfield Hills Andover, told Kearney that he looked like a runner and should try track. Kearney always liked running, but since it was already the middle of the season, he had no chance to get in shape for competition.

The following year, Kearney ran cross country in the fall and track in the spring. He was running the 440-yard dash and not having much success.

"AFTER ONE MEET where I got my drawers blown off by the eventual state champ," Kearney recalled, "I borrowed a stopwatch and ran the 880-yard dash by myself. I ran a 2:03.0." Switching events, Kearney finished his junior year fifth in the state meet with a 1:57.5 performance. As a senior, he switched events again, going to the mile.

Kearney won the mile run in every meet that senior, except the state championship. He was second in the state with a 4:14.7, "three seconds faster than the winning time this year," he adds. He still holds the mile record at Andover, 4:13.8. His county record held for 10 years.

The next fall Kearney attended the University of Michigan on an athletic scholarship. He set a school record in the mile as a sophomore. That same year he participated on a two mile relay team which set a national record, earning him all-American status.

As a junior, the two mile relay team broke its own record. However, he was injured most of that year and all of his senior season. In 1969 he graduated from the University of Michigan, receiving a BS in education.

That fall he joined the teaching staff at Derby. Although unpaid, he helped the track coach on his own time that first season, before taking over the head track coaching job one year later. This season, he was named coach of the year by an overwhelming vote of his fellow coaches.