

Winter's last dregs can't stop prep trackmen

By TOM BAER

The winter of '78 lingers on, much to the annoyance of area high school track athletes.

Prep trackmen, who usually begin their outdoor workouts during the first blustery days of March, have had to contend with some special problems this year, thanks to the winter's record snowfall.

Farmington High's athletes, for example, couldn't even see their track until a recent Sunday when the school used some heavy equipment to clear the "all-weather" surface.

"It took five hours, but we finally cleared two to three feet of snow off two thirds of our track," said Farmington coach Gerald Young. "The snow would be there weeks from now if we just let it melt."

Farmington graduated some talented trackmen from last year's team, which finished with a 6-3 overall record and a 4-1 mark in the Inter Lakes League. Farmington finished third in the ILL behind champion Pontiac Northern and Livonia Stevenson.

"I think Stevenson will be the team to beat this year," Young said. "I don't think we'll have enough balance to do much, although we have some good individuals. I think we can finish as good as we did last year."

Farmington's field events "could be a little shaky" this season, according to Young. But he certainly didn't mean to include his high jumpers.

FARMINGTON HAS three good high jumpers in senior Rick McKibbin, who cleared 6-feet-6 last season and finished fifth in the state; Jeff Lemanski, who went 5-1; and Mike Finlayson, who made 6-0.

Farmington usually has some good distance runners, and this season should be no exception with seniors Harold Rutla, Hugh Leitelin and Paul McKinnon. All ran on the Falcons' successful cross country team.

"Those three distance kids have lots of experience," Young said. "McKinnon, especially, is looking good. I think he'll show lots of improvement."

Scott Hazen, a junior who was a heavyweight on the school's wrestling team, will try shotputting this spring. Doug Bock, another shotputter, isn't working out right now because of a calcium deposit in his shoulder.

Other Farmington prospects include junior pole vaulter Jim Branceaux, who managed 12-6 last year; half milers Mark MacDonald and Dave



Harrison's Jim Stojek.

Farmington Observer

SPORTS

Monday, March 20, 1978

(F1C)

Compo; and hurdler Dennis Antishon. At Farmington Harrison, coach Tom Shalla is hoping he can put together a crew which will better last season's 6-5 overall record and the 2-3 showing in the Western Six League.

Shalla has a turnout of 41 hopefuls. "That's small, but the school keeps getting smaller," he said.

Senior Tom Reynolds, who holds the WSL record in the 100-yard dash, should provide plenty of first places for Harrison in that event as well as the 220-yard dash. John Cable, also a senior, has experience in the quarter mile and the mile relay.

HARRISON HAS three promising hurdlers in senior Jim Stojek, junior Mark Worsley and sophomore Jim Miller. Some Hawk distance men are seniors Mike Foley and John Anderson and junior Charlie Rogers. Pat Delano, a senior half miler, and Cliff Norton, a sophomore pole vaulter, are two more prospects.

"We should be fairly strong in the 100, the quarter and the half," Shalla said. "Our field events are down a little, although we have a good long jumper in junior John Tremont. He wasn't out last year, but he's a legit over-20-footer."

Shalla said he sees a four-way dog fight for the Western Six track title.

"It should be between Livonia Churchill, Northville, Waterford Mott and us," he said. "Northville has the distance people, and Churchill always has the numbers."

Harrison has a new assistant coach in Reggie Goshorn, who specializes in field events.

At North Farmington, assistant coach Ed Davis is optimistic about the upcoming season.

"Last year, it was a kind of a get-your-feet-wet thing for a lot of our kids," Davis said. "They took their lumps last year. But this season we're expecting better things."

"I don't think our opponents will

have to worry about us slamming too many events. But we'd like to think we have a stopper, a real competitive kid, in each event."

THE RAIDERS are stocked with underclassmen, and two of the more promising are junior sprinters Mike Miller (:10.2 in the 100) and Jeff Cohen (:22.8 in the 220). Another returnee is junior miler Paul Welch, who turned in a 4:38 indoors over the winter.

Junior vaulter Rich Burrell went 12-0 last season, and classmate Rob Henderson made 5-2 in the high jump. Jeff Lasich, a sophomore middle distance man, had an outstanding ninth-grade season, going :53.6 in the 440. Junior Mark Biehl, the center on North's basketball team, didn't compete in track last year. But he's out now, and looks like a good bet to win some shotput and discus events.

North is a member of the Northwest Suburban League. Defending champion Livonia Franklin and Westland John Glenn seem to be the league powers in track, coaches believe.

"It's tough to go against Glenn," Davis said. "Glenn is the giant of the league with 2,600 kids. They have a great track tradition."

All three Farmington teams will compete in the Huron Relays on March 25 in Eastern Michigan University's Bowen Field House in Ypsilanti. The top teams from Michigan and Ohio usually enter this initial test of the boys' track season.

Track schedules

FARMINGTON HIGH
BOYS' TRACK SCHEDULE — March 25—Huron Relays (Eastern Michigan University), 9 a.m.; April 1—Spartan Relays (Michigan State University), 9 a.m.; April 11—Southfield (Northville), 4 p.m.; April 15—Mantlefield Relays (Mantlefield, Ohio), April 18—at Livonia Churchill, 4 p.m.; April 21—at Milford Lake, 4 p.m.; April 27—Pontiac Northern, 4 p.m.; May 4—Waterford Mott, 4 p.m.; May 8—Overland Relays; May 8—North Farmington, Farmington Harrison, 4 p.m.; May 11—at Livonia Stevenson, 4 p.m.; May 12—at Bloomfield Hills Labor Relays, 3 p.m.; May 17—Walled Lake Central, 4 p.m.; May 20—Class A regional; May 21—Livonia Lakes League Meet (at Farmington High), 4 p.m.; May 28—Oakland County Meet; June 3—Class A Finals.

NORTH FARMINGTON
BOYS' TRACK SCHEDULE — March 25—Huron Relays (Eastern Michigan University), 9 a.m.; April 1—Spartan Relays (Michigan State University), 9 a.m.; April 11—at Walled Lake Western, 4 p.m.; April 15—at Waterford Mott, 4 p.m.; April 18—at Plymouth Center, 3:30 p.m.; April 20—Garden City East, 3:30 p.m.; April 22—at Brother Rice Relays, 3 p.m.; April 25—at Northville High, 4 p.m.; April 27—at Redford Thornton, 4 p.m.; May 3—Walled Lake Central, 3:30 p.m.; May 8—Overland Relays; May 8—at Farmington High, 4 p.m.; May 11—Livonia Franklin, 3:30 p.m.; May 12—at Bloomfield Hills Labor Relays, 3 p.m.; May 17—at Westland John Glenn, 3:30 p.m.; May 20—Class A regional; May 21—Northwest Suburban League Meet (Livonia Franklin); May 28—Oakland County Meet; June 3—Class A Finals.

FARMINGTON HARRISON
BOYS' TRACK SCHEDULE — March 25—Huron Relays (Eastern Michigan University), 9 a.m.; April 1—Spartan Relays (Michigan State University), 9 a.m.; April 11—Waterford Mott, 4 p.m.; April 15—at Birmingham Southfield, 4 p.m.; April 18—at Highland Park, 4 p.m.; April 27—Plymouth Center, 4 p.m.; May 4—Waterford Mott, 4 p.m.; May 8—Overland Relays; May 8—at Farmington High, 4 p.m.; May 11—at Livonia Churchill, 3:30 p.m.; May 12—at Bloomfield Hills Labor Relays, 3 p.m.; May 17—Walled Lake Western, 4 p.m.; May 20—Class A regional; May 21—Northville High, 4 p.m.; May 28—Oakland County Meet; May 31—Western Six League Meet (at Harrison), 4 p.m.; June 3—Class A Finals.



Harrison's Mark Worsley clears a hurdle during a recent practice. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

Amateur netter develops local tennis talent

By JOHN BOZZO

It wasn't accident or luck that vaulted Nicole Lorenzetti, a 16-year-old Lahser High School junior, into women's professional tennis.

She recently won a qualifying tournament against local amateur girls which put her in the Virginia Slims of Detroit tournament.

Since then, Nicole has participated in three Avon Futures Circuit tournaments in Florida.

Although she lost her first match in each of the tournaments, Nicole will participate in the Women's Tennis Association Championship Tournament, starting March 28 in Stuart, Fla.

Only five years after starting competitive tennis at age 11, Nicole is competing with the professionals.

But it's no surprise. Her father, Lorenzo, 41, is one of the top developers of junior tennis competition in the Southeastern Michigan area.

ONE YEAR AGO Lorenzo conceived, financed and organized the Junior Grand Prix.

Every week the top 20 junior tennis players play each other in a round robin format. Rankings are determined by cumulative scores, so every game counts.

Every Sunday he rents an indoor tennis facility for the competition. Lorenzo raised the money by selling \$5,360 in advertisements for the Southeastern Michigan Tennis Association's yearbook.

He plans to expand the competition next season, which starts in the fall. He has personally sold \$18,000 in advertising for the upcoming yearbook. Lorenzo said that sales by other people will bring the total to \$20,000.

"Every time you go toward buying court time," Lorenzo said. "Our goal is to expand to 200 people. Instead of alternating boys one week and girls the next, we'll have the top boys and girls playing each week."

"In addition, we'll start Grand Prix Phase II for the lesser developed players."

Lorenzo said the benefits of his Grand Prix tennis program are that it offers top competition, it's close to home, and there's no cost.

"There is no coaching," Lorenzo said. "Everyone is involved in their own instructional program. This is designed for tough match play."

"THE ONLY WAY to improve is to play someone of equal or better ability. Most juniors travel 10-12 hours to go to a city and play one eight-game pro set. Then they pack it up and come home."

"We felt we had such a great depth of talent locally that instead of traveling, these kids can play right here. In Grand Prix each kid plays about 45 games in three hours."

Lorenzo Lorenzetti knows what it takes to be a top athlete. A native of Venice, Italy, Lorenzo came to Detroit at age 21. He swam for the Italian army in the Military Olympics and is an ex-pro soccer player.

'Tennis players are made not born. If you don't motivate a child, if you don't get up at 5 a.m. and put the child with a ball machine for three hours to develop ground strokes, it won't happen.'

"Tennis players are made not born," Lorenzo said. "If you don't motivate a child, if you don't get up at 5 a.m. and put the child with a ball machine for three hours to develop ground strokes, it won't happen."

"You've got to work into the ground. Push, push, push until you're tired, then push some more."

Lorenzo said the round robin format helps the players develop stamina and concentration because the games are all back-to-back.

"Some of the kids get a little tired and want to take a rest," Lorenzo said. "I tell them, 'What are you going to do if you're playing in the nationals in Louisiana where it's 110 degrees in the shade. You can't say to your opponent that you're tired and want a drink of water.'"

DONALD BLACKBURN of Birmingham praised the Grand Prix tennis tournaments run by Lorenzo.

Blackburn's son, Roger, participates in the tournaments. Roger, an eighth grader at Berkshire Junior High School, has run up an impressive win-loss percentage in age group tennis tournaments.

"The Grand Prix provides an excellent source of competition on the local level," Blackburn said.



Lorenzo Lorenzetti talks with his daughter, Nicole, at the Virginia Slims of Detroit tournament. (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)

—Lorenzo Lorenzetti