

No runaway expected in Observerland Relays

Area boys' track coaches agree that this Saturday's Observerland Relays could be one of the most closely contested meets in the eight year history of the competition.

Fourteen teams will participate on the cinder track at Hilbert Jr. High, Puritan in Kinloch, in Redford. The school is midway between Five and Six Mile and Inkster and Beech Daly.

Finals in the field events will get underway at 4 p.m. All track finals will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude under the lights.

Admission at the gate is 75 cents for students and \$1.50 for adults.

Observerland has become such a popular meet over the years because it is the only time that most area boys' track teams get to compete against all others in head-to-head competition.

The meet is also popular because it allows teams which have lost dual meets earlier in the season a chance to get even.

Many runners and fieldmen on the teams know each other quite well

which makes for even more interesting competition.

The lineup includes all four Livonia schools—Churchill, Franklin, Stevenson and Bentley—all three Farmington schools—Harrison, North and Farmington High—and both Plymouth schools—Salem and Canton.

Also competing will be Redford Thurston, Redford Bishop Borgess, Redford Union, Garden City East and Northville.

The teams mentioned most prominently as favorites this year are Franklin, Borgess, Stevenson and Churchill.

Salem, one of the most improved teams in the area, looms as a dark-horse threat.

Several coaches said that they expect the winner to have perhaps the lowest point total in the history of the meet due to the balance and pockets of strength which most squads possess.

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SPORTS

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and Stevenson tied with 27 points and Borgess landed third with 26.

Churchill, with 31 points, edged Stevenson by two points for the title last season and Churchill had an 11-point margin over runner-up Franklin in 1976.

The Chargers' chances Saturday, according to coach Fred Price, depends on how well Dave Kietly, one of the premier discus and shot put throwers in the area, can perform on a severely sprained ankle.

Other Churchill standouts are Tobin Jones and Ken Gaskell, distance runners, and Rick Austin, a hurdler and sprinter.

Franklin, champion of the Elks Relays, held two weeks ago, has blue-chip performers in Dave Bowen, a sprinter and long jumper, Don Boka, shot putter and Dave Kmet and Bruce DeNapoli, pole vaulters.

Stevenson, also strong across the board, will be led by Bill Baker and Brian Bowthly in the hurdles, Rob Jur-

czyzyn in the discus and shot put, Chuck Beane in sprints and John McCormick in distance races.

Borgess also has an outstanding cast which includes Tim Turner, pole vault and sprints, the Krogulecki brothers—Matt and Steve—in the hurdles and sprints, respectively and Charlie Cole in the distances.

The other teams, although not having as much depth as the four favorites, will also field outstanding athletes.

Thurston, with Curt Reynolds and Brian Hess, and East, with Jeff Per-

rine and Kevin Kize, will be especially competitive in the middle and long distance relays.

North Farmington should do reasonably well in the sprint relays with the talents of Mike Miller and Art Doran and Farmington has a pair of quality distance men in Hugh Leidlein and Paul McKinnon.

Salem could do well in the pole vault with the trio of Scott Kappler, Mark Choma and Scott Wellman. Chris

Ritchey will lead the way in the sprint relays for the Rocks and Bob Dasher will match skills in the shot put and discus.

Andy Lewis will represent Canton in the shot and discus, while Mike Petesch, from Redford Union, probably the most accomplished, all-around field performer in the state, will lead the Panthers in the early portion of the competition.

A young Bentley team will be spearheaded by Ed Sulick, a versatile performer in sprints, hurdles and a couple of field events, and Dave Hoesey, a middle distance runner.

All 13 events will be run in relay form. The first five finishers in every event will receive five, four, three, two and one point, respectively.

Best times —
see pages 2, 3

NF pitcher foils foe; Falcons, Hawks win

By TOM BAER

It was a happy day for North Farmington's baseball program when Barry Balbes transferred in from Oak Park last year.

In the past two seasons, Balbes has become North's top pitcher and one of its better hitters. Last Monday, the Raider lefty chalked up his third straight victory as North topped Garden City East, 5-1, in a Northwest Suburban League game.

Balbes gave up his first earned run in 11 innings, struck out four, walked two and allowed two hits. "The wind was blowing in against his curve, and that's his big strikeout pitch," said North coach Jerry Maxwell. "So he had to throw mostly fastballs."

North pounded losing pitcher Steve Topalian for 10 hits. Ron Nutter had a single and a double and scored two runs. Gregg Hughes had an RBI triple and knocked in another run with a squeeze bunt, and Tom Godwin had two hits and stole two bases.

In an earlier game, Dave Weyher pitched a two hitter and struck out 10 batters as North defeated non-league

Walled Lake Central, 4-1. North had seven hits, including three safeties by Balbes and an RBI single by Jim Russell.

North, which is enjoying his best baseball season ever with a 7-1 overall record and a 4-1 mark in the NSL, plays next on Friday (May 5) at Farmington Harrison. The game, which should decide city supremacy in prep baseball, begins at 4 p.m.

HARRISON — WESTERN

Kevin Collar blasted a two-run homer to support Brett Homovec's five-hit pitching last Monday as Farmington Harrison dumped Walled Lake Western, 7-2, in a Western Six League baseball game at Harrison. The win pushed Harrison to 7-3 overall and 3-1 in the WSL.

Homovec, who evened his pitching record at 3-3, struck out eight and walked three. Craig Edwards had a homer and a triple, Tom Cundy provided another triple, and Pat Golich went three for four.

On April 29, Mark Recker pitched a six-hitter, struck out seven and walked two as Harrison defeated city-rival Farmington High, 5-1. Win Dahm, paced Harrison's 10-hit showing with a

double and two singles to go with four stolen bases.

Harrison returns to Western Six League play on Monday with an important game at Plymouth Salem. Game time is 3:45 p.m.

FARMINGTON — WATERFORD

Kevin Delp upped his pitching record to 3-0 in leading Farmington High past Waterford Township, 4-2, last Monday in the Inter Lakes League. Farmington is 2-0 in the ILL and 6-3 overall with the victory.

Delp, a righthander, gave up two hits, fanned five and passed five. "He had a good fastball, but he was kind of wild, especially at the beginning," said Farmington coach Richard Roy.

Farmington had eight hits by eight different players. Greg Kuhlenlein knocked in the go-ahead run with a one-out single in the fourth inning. Bill Philp sent home two more runs with a double, and Marty Bona knocked in another run with a single.

On Friday (May 5), Farmington entertains Walled Lake Central in an Inter Lakes League game.



North's Mark Thompson (dark uniform) barrels into East third baseman John Tropolian. (Staff photo by Harry Maube)

Tough pitcher stops Farmington

HHS softballers whip Western

Farmington Harrison pitcher Lori Webb is "hard to hit" in the words of softball coach Sandra Rivers. Last Monday, most of Walled Lake Western's batters were agreeing with the Harrison coach.

Webb, a junior right hander, went the route, struck out none and walked just one to pace Harrison's 17-7 victory over Western in a Western Six League softball game on Wednesday's diamond. "Lori doesn't have much speed, but she's hard to hit because she puts an unusual spin on the ball," Rivers said.

Cathy Corbett had three singles and drove in four runs to pace Harrison's 17-hit attack. Linda Reche had three hits and knocked in two runs, and Nancy Bowden added three hits and knocked in another run.

Earlier, Harrison bested city-rival Farmington High, 14-9, in a non-league game. Winning pitcher Barb Erickson, working in relief of Webb, gave up two hits. It wasn't exactly a pitcher's day as both teams combined for 14 walks.

Harrison got seven hits off losing pitcher Betsy VanDeusen, who struck out two and walked 10. Farmington hurt its cause by making 12 errors in the game.

Farmington, 3-2 overall and 1-1 in the ILL, takes a trip to Walled Lake Central for a league game at 4 p.m. on Friday.

WATERFORD — FARMINGTON

Annie Verwey, a junior right hander, gave up just one hit—a bunt single—and allowed only one ball to leave the infield last Monday as Waterford Township blustered Farmington High, 16-1, in the Inter Lakes League. Ver-

wey walked six and struck out six.

"She had speed, lots of speed and more speed," said Farmington coach Vestus Spindler. "It was like the ball was coming out of a cannon. I'm sure glad I didn't have to hit against her."

Waterford got seven hits off losing pitcher Betsy VanDeusen, who struck out two and walked 10. Farmington hurt its cause by making 12 errors in the game.

Farmington, 3-2 overall and 1-1 in the ILL, takes a trip to Walled Lake Central for a league game at 4 p.m. on Friday.

BORGESS — MERCY

Farmington Our Lady of Mercy car-

ried a 7-5 lead into the seventh inning of its softball game with Redford Bishop Borgess last Monday at Farmington City Park. Then, disaster struck.

Borgess staged a super rally, taking advantage of four Mercy walks and using two hits by Sue Lecmac, to win the Catholic League game, 12-7. The loss put coach Linda Barber's Mercy team at 2-2 this season.

Losing pitcher Marge Larges gave up seven hits, struck out one and walked seven before being yanked in the seventh in favor of reliever Margie Keuber. Mercy had 10 hits. Diane Jones drove in two runs with a triple, and Katie McNamara had a double and a single.

Mercy plays next on Monday (May 8) at Birmingham Marian. The Catholic League game starts at 4 p.m.

G.C. EAST — N. FARMINGTON

A mercy rule halted the North Farmington-Garden City East softball game last Monday with East holding a 17-3 lead. North is winless in four outings this season.

North had just four hits, singles by Marsha Kitch, Kathy Kirkendall, Carol Rambus and Ann Rodewig. Rodewig and Sandy Stump shared the pitching duties. Winning pitcher Patti Boshin worked the first three innings.

North returns to Northwest Suburban League play on Monday (May 8) with a 3:45 p.m. game at Livonia Franklin.

HHS kickers blank Farmington

Linda Nelson scored a goal, and Keri Oldham provided the shutout reminding as Farmington Harrison defeated Farmington High, 1-0, in a high school girls' soccer game April 29. In another recent match, Livonia Stevenson blanked Harrison, 3-0.

Harrison, coached by Dave Nehr, plays next on Friday (May 5) at home against North Farmington. The match begins at 4 p.m.

Wild western wind

Tornadoes usually come from the southwest at speeds between 20 and 45 m.p.h. Almost all tornadoes come somewhere from the western horizon and they have traveled at speeds of nearly 70 m.p.h.

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Farmington net team finally logs 1st victory

Farmington High has been taking its tennis lumps this spring, but coach Richard Burgess' Falcons won't go winless thanks to their effort against Waterford Township last Monday.

Farmington, with Jim Boston winning the deciding No. 4 singles match, edged Waterford, 4-3, for its first win in six starts. The Falcons are 1-1 in the Inter Lakes League. Boston whipped Doug Ferich in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4, in the key match.

"Boston was really outstanding," Burgess said. "He worked so hard to win that match. He fell down on one point, but he got up and salvaged it. He hung in there and he didn't choke."

Farmington, which won all three doubles matches, got a "pretty sharp" effort from the No. 1 crew of Eric Stetson and Buddy Ferrer at No. 1. The Farmington team beat Tom Jackson and Dave Harmon, 4-6, 6-0, 6-3.

In another meet last Monday, North Farmington downed Garden City East, 6-1, in the Northwest Suburban League. North is 4-2 overall and 2-0 in the NSL with the victory.

Dieter Rucker, North's No. 1 singles player, defeated Nino Ararena, 6-3, 6-3. In No. 2 singles, East's Scott Carver knocked off George Stroh, 6-4, 6-0.

North's No. 1 doubles crew, Steve Chupinsky and Sam Gray, had little trouble with Tim Collins and Steve Gonzales, 6-0, 6-0.

Farmington Harrison stopped Walled Lake Western, 5-2, in a Western Six League meet last Monday. Harrison has a 4-1 overall record and a 3-0 mark in the WSL.

Harrison lost No. 1 singles with Ron Poland taking three sets to down Barry Lesham, 3-6, 7-6, 6-3. Western's best doubles team, Steve Burt and Jeff Churn, downed Richard Wald and Glen

Warheit, 6-4, 6-3. Four of the seven matches lasted three sets.

"It was a very shaky meet," said Harrison coach Bernie Goldstein. "We won two of our matches in third-set tiebreakers. It shouldn't have been that close."

On Friday (May 5), Harrison entertains North Farmington, and Farmington High plays host to Walled Lake Central. Both meets have 3:45 p.m. starting times. On Saturday, North Farmington will play in the Lake Orion Doubles Invitational Tournament.

Area tennis summaries

N. FARMINGTON — G.C. EAST

SINGLES — Dieter Rucker (North Farmington) defeated Nino Ararena, 6-3, 6-3; Scott Carver (Garden City East) defeated Gary Stroh, 6-4, 6-4; Mike Shopp (NF) defeated Mike Reafoff, 6-4, 7-6; Dave

Burns (NF) defeated Steve Donabue, 6-1, 6-4.

DOUBLES — Steve Chupinsky and Sam Gray (NF) defeated Tim Collins and Steve Gonzales, 6-0, 6-0; Brett Rich and John Olson (NF) defeated Ron Andral and Mark Stuchling, 6-0, 6-0; Ross Ruschle and Rick Justice (NF) defeated Chuck Mella and Paul Muller, 6-3, 6-1.

FARMINGTON — WATERFORD

SINGLES — Paul Hickey (Waterford Township) defeated Doug Williams, 6-1, 6-0; Rick Carmon (WF) defeated John Rupp, 6-1, 6-4; Fred Edwards (WF) defeated Mike Moore, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4; Jim Boston (Farmington) defeated Doug Ferich, 6-4, 6-4.

DOUBLES — Eric Stetson and Buddy Ferrer (F) defeated Tom Jackson and Larry Harmon, 6-3, 6-1, 7-5; Chris Reamer and Jim Page (F) defeated Gerardo Kogman and Dave Harmon, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6; Tom Balducci and Mickey Schaefer (F) defeated Mike Smith and Ferrin Rydman, 6-4, 6-4.

HARRISON — W.L. WESTERN

SINGLES — Ron Poland (Walled Lake Western) defeated Barry Lesham, 3-6, 7-6, 6-3; Barry Sobot (Harrison) defeated Doug Wald and Glen Warheit, 6-4, 6-3;

Chris Forberg and Brian French (H) defeated Randy Edwards and Warren Smiley, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6; Mark Diekmann and Al Lalor (H) defeated Bert Tuley and Glen Muzumal, 7-6, 7-6, 6-4.