

All-Area boys' cross country picks sparkle



Scott Harper (white uniform) of Birmingham Seaholm was a pick for the boys' all-area cross country team.

By DENNIS O'CONNOR

It was a year to remember for boys' cross country teams in the Observer & Eccentric area, as many of the area's squads and individuals were extremely successful in Oakland County, regional and state meets. Bloomfield Hills Lahser led the O&E area squads with a sparkling third-place finish in the state meet. For the Knights' extraordinary efforts in that Class A meet, Lahser coach Don Rolston has been named O&E coach-of-the-year.

Birmingham Brother Rice was another strong squad, winning the Catholic League Oakland County and regional meets, before falling to 20th in a disappointing state-meet finish.

Bloomfield Hills Lahser also had a fine season, battling tooth-and-nail with Lahser in the Metro Suburban Association (MSA) before winning the conference meet to earn a tie for the league crown.

Not only was the team strength evident in boys' cross country this year, but the individual standouts were equally impressive.

Three Birmingham harriers, two from Bloomfield Hills and one each from Southfield and Farmington made up the 1979 version of the O&E All-Area boys' cross country team, as selected by the area coaches.

Let's meet this fine group of athletes and this year's top coach:

SCOTT HARPER, senior, Birmingham Seaholm. Considered by many coaches as the top runner the area, Harper was the leader of the Maples squad this season and one of the most

respected runners in the Southeastern Michigan Association.

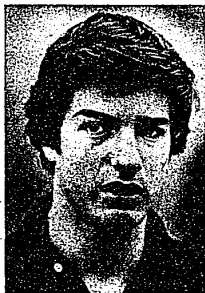
Harper won every dual meet he competed in this fall for coach Ron Wheeler's team. One of his most outstanding accomplishments was a third-place finish in the Class A state meet with a 15:02 clocking at the Howell three-mile course. He also placed second in the regional at Royal Oak Kimball.

TIM CANNON, senior, Cranbrook. This Crane standout was second in the

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COACH DON ROLSTON
Bloomfield Lahser



DOUG LAMBERT
Bloomfield Lahser



JOHN MURPHY
Farmington High



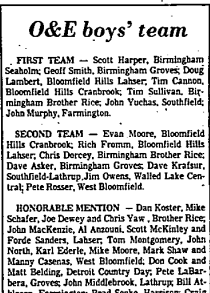
JOHN YUCHAS
Southfield High



GEOFF SMITH
Birmingham Groves



TIM SULLIVAN
Brother Rice



TIM CANNON
Cranbrook

O&E boys' team

FIRST TEAM — Scott Harper, Birmingham Seaholm; Geoff Smith, Birmingham Groves; Doug Lambert, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; Tim Cannon, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook; Tim Sullivan, Birmingham Brother Rice; John Yuchas, Southfield; John Murphy, Farmington.

SECOND TEAM — Evan Moore, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook; Rich Fenn, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; Chris Dercey, Birmingham Brother Rice; Dave Adler, Birmingham Groves; Dave Kratzer, Southfield-Lathrup; Jim Owens, Walled Lake Central; Pete Rosser, West Bloomfield.

HONORABLE MENTION — Dan Koster, Mike Schafer, Joe Dewey and Chris Yaw, Brother Rice; John MacKenzie, Al Anzoni, Scott McKinley and Forde Sanders, Lahser; Tom Montgomery, John North, Karl Ederle, Mike Moore, Mark Shaw and Manny Casanova, West Bloomfield; Don Cook and Matt Belding, Detroit Country Day; Pete Lallabera, Groves; John Middlebrook, Lathrup; Bill Atkinson, Farmington; Brad Senko, Harrison; Craig Stres, Troy Athens; Rich Kitter, Avondale.

COACH OF THE YEAR — Don Rolston, Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

Rochester's success shows up in girls' squad

By TOM BAER

Rochester High continues to dominate the Observer & Eccentric's All-Area girls' cross country team.

Last year, coach Hal Commerson's Rochester squad capped an outstanding season by winning the first official girls' cross country state championship. And Rochester's success was represented in the O&E's first cross country team for girls.

Of the 10 girls selected for the first team, four were from Rochester. They were Karen Curtis, Aimee Landry, Lisa Fransen and Jill Washburn. Washburn was the only senior in the group.

Again this year, Rochester's girls were the best in the area. After winning five-straight dual meets, finishing second in the Oakland County meet and fourth in the state regional, Rochester landed second behind Brighton in the Class A state meet at Faulkwood Shores Golf Course near Brighton.

And once again, Rochester's runners were picked for the All-area team. Curtis, a senior, and juniors Fransen and Landry were named to the first team. Commerson was named Coach of the Year.

Curtis, who captained the Rochester team, finished fifth in the state meet with a time of 17:54.7. She finished third in the Greater Oakland Athletic League meet and placed fourth in the regional and the county meet.

Fransen, a two-time all-star, landed sixth in the state meet with a 17:58.4 clocking. She won the GOAL race and placed fifth in the regional. Also a track standout, she made the state meet in the mile and two mile runs.

LANDRY WAS runner up in the GOAL and county meets, but missed the state regional because of illness. "She's an excellent runner," Commerson said.

"She was sick toward the end of the year. Otherwise I'm sure she would have made all-state."

West Bloomfield, another girls' cross country power in the area, had two runners on the first team — both repeaters from last season. The West Bloomfield picks are senior Cindy Poly and sophomore Mary Reed.

Poly's best time of the season was 18:35.0 recorded at the state meet. She finished 16th. She's been West Bloomfield's No. 1 runner for the past two seasons.

Reed's 18:49 was good for 22nd place in the state meet. "She's a good steady runner and she ran a good race at the state meet," said West Bloomfield coach Lee Averill, whose team is a member of the GOAL along with Rochester.

Completing the seven-girl first team are Linda Salucci, a senior from Bloomfield Hills Andover, and Linda

Hansen, a junior from Southfield-Lathrup.

Salucci's best time of the season was 19:17 logged in a dual meet. She placed 19th in the county meet, 23rd in the regional and 28th in the state finals.

Hansen should be an outstanding runner for coach Gerald Mineweaver's Lathrup squad next season. Her fastest time — a 19:38 clocking — was recorded at the Metro Suburban Association meet. She finished third in that race. She was 20th in the county meet, 22nd in the Royal Oak Kimball regional and 27th in the state meet.

Seven more girls were picked for the second team. They include Rocky Brown and Micha Sullivan, both of Farmington Our Lady of Mercy; Anna Bauer, Birmingham Seaholm; Dee Cook, Detroit Country Day School; Mary Lane, Rochester; Eva Scherer, Birmingham Marling; and Jean Pampreen, Bloomfield Hills Lahser.



Lathrup's Linda Hansen, a junior, was picked for the all-area girls' cross country team.



COACH HAL COMMERSON
Rochester High



AIMEE LANDRY
Rochester High



KAREN CURTIS
Rochester High



LISA FRANSEN
Rochester High



CINDY POLY
West Bloomfield



MARY REED
West Bloomfield



LINDA SALUCCI
Bloomfield Andover

O&E girls' team

FIRST TEAM — Karen Curtis, Aimee Landry and Lisa Fransen, Rochester High; Cindy Poly and Mary Reed, West Bloomfield; Linda Hansen, Southfield-Lathrup; Linda Salucci, Bloomfield Hills Andover.

SECOND TEAM — Rocky Brown and Micha Sullivan, Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy; Mary Lane, Rochester; Anna Bauer, Birmingham Seaholm; Jean Pampreen, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; Dee Cook, Detroit Country Day School; Eva Scherer, Birmingham Marian.

HONORABLE MENTION — Dawn Mordis and Linda White, Rochester; Curt Sullivan, Mercy; Laurie Herrington, Walled Lake Central; Janet Hughes, Troy Athens; Karen Hahn, Lahser; Barb Allen, West Bloomfield.

COACH OF THE YEAR — Hal Commerson, Rochester.