

Trackmen prepare for season

By TOM BAER

Farmington High and Farmington Harrison will start their track seasons with new head coaches: Dave Catherman at Farmington and Bob Sutter at Harrison.

Something's new at North Farmington, too, but it's not the coach. Ron Holland begins his 19th season as the Raiders' track coach. It's the track itself — a \$55,000, all-weather running surface, which replaces the old cinder one. Now all three Farmington public high schools have all-weather tracks.

That's what is new as the three coaches prepare their teams for the upcoming season, which begins Saturday morning at the Huron Relays in Eastern Michigan University's Bowen Fieldhouse.

Catherman may be a rookie head coach, but he's certainly no stranger to track and field and other sports at Farmington.

A 1958 graduate of Farmington, Catherman has spent the last 17 years as a teacher and assistant coach there.

For the past several years, he has assisted former track coach Gerald Young with the sprints, hurdles and field events.

Lack of bodies won't be a problem for Catherman this spring. He's working with 53 hopefuls, including some standouts from last year's squad.

"I'm inheriting some good depth in the distance events, although we don't have one particular star like we did last year in Harold Rutlia," Catherman said. "But our cross country team (which Young still coaches) was undefeated, and those kids should help the track team."

SOME DISTANCE prospects include juniors John Murphy and Eric Leidlein, both all-Inter-Lakes League cross country runners; senior Paul Wallace and junior Steve Medonis.

Senior pole vaulter Jim Brancheau, who went over 13 feet in an indoor vault meet, and senior high jumper Mike Finlayson, who has jumped over six feet, should be a big help.

And Farmington won't be weak in

the sprints with seniors Chris Titus in the 220 (23.0) and the 440 (52.0), Scott Hay in the 100 (10.5), and Dennis Antishin. Senior Scott Hazen, an outstanding wrestler, will try the shot put and discus.

Some promising Farmington undergraduates include Kevin Kangas, vaulter, half mile; Rick Curtis, sprints; Dave Erwin, sprinter; Craig Kieley, high jumper; and Kevin Davis, sprints, discus.

"I have a lot of depth in the sprints," Catherman said. "I'm anxious to see what I can put together, especially in the relays."

Asked to name his weak spots, Catherman said: "We don't have great performers in the long jump, and we'll be inexperienced in the half mile and the discus."

Farmington, which had an 8-4 overall dual-meet season and a 3-2 mark in the ILL, begins its dual-meet season April 10 at home against non-league Southfield High. Clarence House will assist Catherman this season.

AT NORTH FARMINGTON, Holland has 15 lettermen back from last season and a big turnout (47) to work with.

North should be strong in the sprints with seniors Jeff Cohen and Mike Miller. Both outstanding running backs on Holland's Class A runner up football team, Cohen and Miller are capable of 10.0 100-yard dashes. Cohen has also run 22.8 in the 220, and Miller has logged a 38.0 in the low hurdles.

Some other North veterans, all seniors: discus thrower Mark Biehl (fifth in the state Class A finals with a throw of 167 feet), high jumper Rob Henderhan (6-5), miler Paul Welch (4:26), vaulter Bob Morden (13-6 indoors) and high jumper Mike Howley (6-2).

"We want to see our seniors hang together this season," said North assistant coach Ed Davis. "Most of them did nice jobs as juniors, and this is the payoff spring for them."

"We'll be strong in the speed events with Cohen and Miller in the 100," Davis said. "Then we'll bring them back in the 220 and the speed relays. And Mike'll do a great job in the hurdles."

"And we have some good individuals in the other events. Not too many people are going to get first place on us in the pole vault. Not with a 13-6 kid." But we have some problems. We need a two miler and people for the shot put and long jump."

NORTH COACHES are enthusiastic about their new track, and they hope it'll be ready for the April 5 home opener against Wall Lake Central.

"Our old track was soft, and that really slowed things down," Davis said. "A legitimate 10-flat sprinter would go 10.4 or 10.5 on our track."

North, Farmington posted an 8-4 overall record last season.

Farmington Observer

sports

Harrison's Bob Sutter, a longtime assistant football coach and until two years ago the school's basketball coach, took over the track duties when Tom Shalla resigned after the end of last season.

Sutter thinks his strength will be in the distance events with senior two miler John Anderson and Johan Engholm and Peter Lundberg, both senior foreign exchange students from Sweden. All gained experience on the Hawks' cross country team.

Other hopefuls include senior weight man Bill Shankle, who placed fifth in the discus at the county meet last year; half miler Eric Teunissen; senior sprinter Chuck Calagias; junior sprinter Jeff White; junior pole vaulter Cliff Norton; and sophomore Ken Kopko.

"A lot depends on how some of our younger kids come along," Sutter said. "We don't have a lot of depth in the middle distances. I don't think we'll be super strong in any one area, although the distances look good with Anderson and the two kids from Sweden."

Harrison's turnout of 35 boys includes 15 sophomores. One problem: Sutter doesn't have an assistant coach.

Harrison opens its dual-meet season April 24 at home against Southfield High.

FARMINGTON HIGH TRACK

SCHEDULE — March 31, at Huron Relays (Eastern Michigan University); 9:30 a.m.; April 1, at Spartan Relays (at Michigan State University); 9:30 a.m.; April 10, Southfield High; 4 p.m.; April 15, Millard Lakeside; 4 p.m.; May 1, at Wall Lake Central; 4 p.m.; May 2, at Pontiac North; 4 p.m.; May 3, at Overland Relays; 4 p.m.; May 4, at Redford Junior High; May 8, at North Farmington; 4 p.m.; May 10, at Wall Lake Central; 4 p.m.; May 16, Livonia Stevenson; 4 p.m.; May 19, state regional meet (at Farmington); May 22, Inter Lakes League meet (at Waterbury); May 25, at Oakland County meet.

NORTH FARMINGTON TRACK

SCHEDULE — March 31, at Huron Relays (Eastern Michigan University); 9:30 a.m.; April 5, Wall Lake Central; 4 p.m.; April 7, at Spartan Relays (Michigan State University); 9:30 a.m.; April 11, Waterford West; 3:30 p.m.; April 15, Wall Lake Central; 4 p.m.; April 23, at Garden City East; 4 p.m.; May 3, Redford Thurston; 4 p.m.; May 5, City East; 4 p.m.; May 8, Redford Junior High; 4 p.m.; May 10, at Redford Union; 3:30 p.m.; May 12, at Bloomfield Hills Junior High; May 14, Northville High; 4 p.m.; May 16, at Livonia Franklin; 4 p.m.; May 19, state regional meet (at Farmington); May 25, Northwest Suburban League meet (at Livonia Franklin); May 25, at Oakland County meet.

FARMINGTON HARRISON TRACK

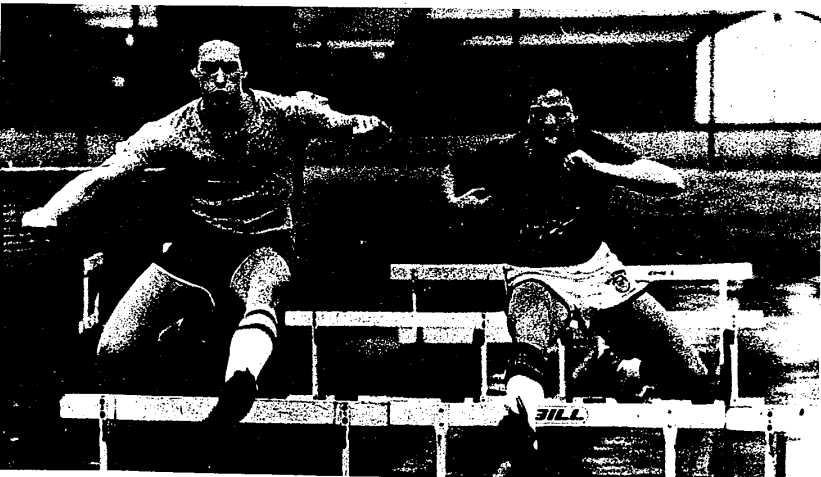
SCHEDULE — March 31, at Huron Relays (Eastern Michigan University); 9:30 a.m.; April 24, Southfield High; 4 p.m.; April 26, Northville High; 4 p.m.; May 1, at Plymouth-Canton; 4 p.m.; May 3, at Overland Relays; May 8, at North Farmington; 4 p.m.; May 10, at Waterford West; 4 p.m.; May 16, Livonia Churchill; 4 p.m.; May 19, state regional meet (at Farmington); May 24, at Wall Lake West; 4 p.m.; May 25, at Oakland County meet; May 30, Western Six League meet (at Northville High).



North's Mike Howley long jumps in a meet last year.



Farmington's John Murphy limbers up during an early workout.



Farmington hurdlers Mike Finlayson (left) and Don Dewar work out. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

Stingray swimmers log records

Two Michigan Stingray swimmers, Matt Cashin and Scott Christie, won individual state titles last weekend as the Farmington-based swim team participated in the Michigan Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Boys' Short Course championships at Royal Oak Kimball High School.

Christie, swimming in the 11-12 age group, won state titles in the 100-yard freestyle (56.8) and the 500-yard freestyle (5:19.3).

A competitive swimmer since age six and a member of the Stingrays for the past two years, Christie edged top-seeded Jeff Cooper in the last length of the 20-lap 500 freestyle race. Christie, of Franklin, took a second in the 200 free (2:07.0), third in the 50 backstroke (31.3) and the 100 individual medley (1:05.9) and fourth in the 100 backstroke (1:08.7) and the 200 IM (2:22.1).

Cashin, 14, of Farmington Hills, logged his state championship in the 400 IM with a time of 4:31.6 in the

finals after splashing to a 4:35.9 in the preliminaries.

Cashin, a member of the Stingrays for the past five years, took second place in the 13-14 age group 200 IM (2:05.6), and had third-place finishes in the 100 breaststroke (1:05.4) and the 200 breaststroke (2:21.5).

Another Stingray swimmer, Chris Leslie scored in five events in the 11-12 group. He finished seventh in the 500 freestyle (5:44.3) and in the 200 IM (2:29.1), took eighth in the 200 free (2:12.0) and landed 11th in the 100 butterfly (1:03.0) and the 50 butterfly (32.9).

Two more Stingrays, Scott Sinson and Ralf Brooks, came through with scoring performances in the individual events. Sinson, swimming in the 11-12 group, finished 11th in the 200 free with a time of 2:12.7, and Brooks took 11th in the 1,650 free with a 17:45.6 clocking.

In addition to the individual events,

five Stingray relays finished in the top 12 in the meet.

The 200 free relay for 11-12-year-olds (Pat Dunigan, Christie, Leslie and Sinson) finished fifth. Also taking fifth place was the 13-14 800 free relay (Bill Keitz, Tim Harkness, Ted Rudel and Cashin) with a time of 8:11.3.

The 11-12 200 medley relay (Christie, Glenn Spence, Leslie and Sinson) finished sixth in 2:09.8. The 13-14 400 medley relay (David Krause, Zeitz, Cashin and Harkness) took eighth place in 4:18.7. The 13-14 400 free relay (Zeitz, Ted Rudel, Harkness and Cashin) finished 10th in 3:50.2.

Mike Budi of Farmington Hills won the 11th-and-12th-grade championship of the Michigan School Individual table tennis tournament last Sunday in competition held at Detroit's Cobo Hall.

Budi, a senior at North Farmington High School, won eight-straight matches in the tournament. In the best three-out-of-five final match, he bested Novi High's Nagus Anderson, 21-12, 21-18, 21-18.

Sudi then teamed with his sister,

Kathy, to win the senior (grades 10-12) doubles championship, topping Novi's Anderson and Jeff Johnston, 21-16, 21-16, 21-16, in the final match.

Some 108 students competed in seven grade groups in the tournament, which was sponsored by the Detroit Table Tennis Club. The 11th-and-12th-grade group was the most populous with 51 students competing.

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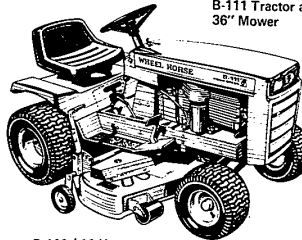
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