

Southfield girl tracksters tune up for season

By DENNIS O'CONNOR

Many familiar faces return for another season of girls track competition in Southfield.

Southfield High School features first-year coach Pete Mazzara, who takes over the Blue Jays' girls team from Tom Eschmann, who has become boys track coach.

Mazzara is excited about this year's team, and well he should be after the tremendous strides forward made by the girls last season.

The Blue Jays set 22 school records last year and placed fifth in the Southeastern Michigan Association (SMA) standings with only one senior on the team.

"This year's team could be the best

girls track team Southfield High has ever had," Mazzara said.

Outgoing coach Eschmann acknowledged his successor's statement.

"Last year, the team made the transition from a PE (physical education) class to a bonafide, competitive track team," Eschmann said. He added the return of key members to the line up

could make the Jays even stronger this year.

Theresa Kopach is one of the top Southfield sprinters returning this season. She took a second-place medal home in league competition as a junior last year and is expected to lead the way this spring. She also is a high jumper.

Junior Sheri Drenfeld, a three-year letter winner, heads the field events. She was an All-Eccentric shot putter last year and also throws the discus.

Sharon Edwards is a promising sophomore who runs the 100-yard dash and is a relay member. Karen Rourke, a middle distance runner, returns after setting a school record in the 880-yard run last year. She is also a high jumper.

Linda Erickson is another tough, middle distance runner, specializing in the 440-yard dash. She also runs the open 880-yard event and is a member of the mile relay.

SOUTHFIELD-LATHRUP'S coach Ruth Heatherington enters her third year of coaching the Chargers with a solid nucleus of returning seniors and a host of promising sophomores.

The Chargers, however, are in the tough Metro Suburban Activities Association (MSAA) with strong competition from Royal Oak, Westland, last year's champion, Birmingham Groves and Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

"I'm very optimistic about the season," Heatherington said. "We have a lot of new runners this year and I'm looking forward to seeing how they react in competition. I hope for some good results."

The Charger coach said many team members are suffering from early-season leg and ankle injuries, but she is hopeful her team can still have a good season.

"The girls are enjoying themselves, and that's my main goal," Heatherington said.

ton said. "If we win that's even better. It should be a fun season."

Kim Rosensteel, Linda Martin and Beth Bauer head the list of returning senior distance runners. Rosensteel comes off a successful cross country season last fall which qualified her for the state meet. She is also the team's top high jumper.

Senior Jana Bentley is the veteran sprinter. Senior Vivian Harvey is a hopeful in the hurdle event. Stacy Silberg is the club's top shot putter.

Two sophomore sprinters who look very promising are Ann McKnight and Cheryl Richman. Both runners have one year of varsity experience under their belts as freshmen.

SOUTHFIELD CHRISTIAN'S successful 1978 campaign couldn't lure coach Shirley Humbyrd back for another year.

Christian is still without a girls track coach, although the team continues to practice daily.

Scott Newport, a 1976 Christian graduate and member of the boys track team, is currently working out with the girls, conducting regular practice sessions until a coach is hired.

Southfield Christian was one of the top girls track teams at the Class D regionals last year, and many of the girls from that team return this season.

Christian was tough in both the 440-yard and 880-yard sprint relays last season, and three of the four members returned to the line up.

Robin Hannis, Tania Reynolds and Tammy Newport, Scott's younger sister, are three promising sprinters. Newport won a regional medal in the open 440-yard race last season.

Junior Julie Buller heads the field events as one of the team's top high jumpers.

Three upset freshmen who were terrorists in the junior high school program are Mindy Wade (mile), Sara Cochran (220 yards) and Velvet Devine (880 yards).



Theresa Kopach from Southfield High sails cleanly over the high jump bar. (Staff photo by Stephen Cantrell)

Activities listed

The Walled Lake Schools Community Education Department has announced the spring schedule of recreation activities to help get you in shape for summer.

The gym at the Dublin Elementary school will be open on Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. for Men's (over 18) Recreation Night. The cost is 50 cents per person, payable at the door, and basketballs are available.

The Western High School pool is open for recreation swimming three nights a week — from 8-9 p.m. Tuesdays, and from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays. A parent or legal guardian must pay to qualify for the family rate of \$1.

Western High School is also the location of the Sunday Family Fun and Fitness Program which has been extended to two more weeks — ending April 8. The pool and gym are open from 1-4 p.m. every Sunday from a cost of \$1 per person or \$2 per family. A parent or legal guardian must pay to qualify for the family rate.

A variety of activities are available including swimming, basketball, table tennis, volleyball and weight lifting. Participants are to bring their own suits, towels and lockers.

All of the above activities will be cancelled over the spring vacation, April 13-22.

For additional information, please call the Community Education Department at 624-0202.

OU baseball team seeks another GLIAC title

Rochester's John Rotondo heads a list of 10 new players on this year's Oakland University baseball team.

Rotondo, who played on last year's Falcon team which won a share of the Greater Oakland Activities League (GOAL) baseball title, will cover third base for the Pioneers. The 5-foot-10-inch, 155-pound right hander was a three-year player for Rochester coaches Dave Kerr and Ed Wright.

The Pioneers, on a spring tour of Florida, had a 27-16 overall mark last year. However, Oakland finished first in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) with a 12-3 mark.

Although Oakland lost some key pitchers and infielders, there is a nucleus of 16 returning players.

A couple of the top pitchers include Tim Seagraves (Birmingham Brother

Rice) and Dennis McQuade (Utica). Seagraves was named to the all-conference team last year as he posted a 4-1 league record (15-5 overall) with a 1.76 earned run average.

Oakland will have a more experienced team this year, as coach Dirk Dieters' first recruited players become seniors.

One of the top outfielders is Mark Bielski, who was the league leader in

RBF's. The Hazel Park High School graduate is the school record holder for triples.

Brian Cunningham and Dennis Krych are also top veterans. Cunningham led the GLIAC in home runs last year, and Krych, a second baseman, was named all-region.

Two junior college transfer students integrated the Oakland lineup this year. Shortstop Gary Mancini previously played for Henry Ford Community

College, and Wayne Traver is an outfielder who was selected to an all-area team during his high school days.

In assessing the upcoming season, coach Dieters says, "OU will hit well and the pitching, which has improved every year, will continue to get better. The real question this year is our defense."

"We must find replacements for our graduated shortstop (Henry Washington) and third baseman (Jim Dieters). Hopefully the increased team speed and better pitching will compensate for those losses," he said. "Our goals for '79 will be the same: to win the league title, to win 30 games, and to be invited to the NCAA tournament."

The remaining members of Oakland's pitching staff includes Tom Libby, Pete Lynch, Scott Gobbie and Jeff Trax. Libby, a right hander from Walled Lake Western, had four wins and four saves with no losses last year. Other outfielders include Jay Lentz

and Ed Vojtush. Vojtush had a .312 average last year, and was seventh in the conference in RBI's.

The trio of Pioneer catchers are Bob Griffin (Hazel Park), Don McArthur (Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher) and Tom Foell (Birmingham Seaholm). Griffin transferred to OU last year from Oakland Community College, where he was voted the most improved player in 1975.

The Pioneers newcomers — outside of Rotondo — are pitchers Kevin Bara, Greg Smith and Scott Simmons, infielders Gary Mancini, Rance Aguirre, Brian Lackey, Jeff Ruffin and Mark Wood, plus outfielder Wayne Traver.

Dieters has coached the Pioneers for the last three seasons, compiling an overall mark of 84-64.

League competition begins April 6 at home. The Pioneers host Northwood Institute in a doubleheader. No team except Ferris State has won the conference crown two years in a row.

In The Pocket.



By W.W. EDGAR

In keeping with tradition, there was another 700 series fired at Woodland Lanes this week but it came from an unexpected source.

Instead of being registered in the Classic, where the sharpshooters have been holding forth, this barrier-breaking count came in the EGR League and it was the work of Jerry Hallas. He put together games of 235, 245 and 233 for a 713.

The nearest anyone in the Classic came to this was a 691 fired by Al Girolamo, who opened with a 255, followed with 191 and closed with 245 for his pace-making count.

Meanwhile the Ex-Cel Products team captained by Sürig Chambers, took scoring honors with a 3165.

THERE WAS an unusual happening in the Ladies Major League at Crown Lanes last Wednesday night when

three members of the Bonanza team notched games of 202.

Leona Obuchowski was the first, then came Gail Griwicki to match her and Jan Pavela made it complete when she duplicated the feat.

Meanwhile, Jerry Ritter paced the team with a 236 to beat out Penny Behn by a single pin. This gave the team the high count of the night with a 1007.

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IT SELDOM happens, but there was a tie for

top place in the Vinco league at Garden Lanes. The deadlock came about when Jerry Szastak and Brad Lackey each registered a 600. Frank Antennelli finished only five pins back.

In the Wayne County League, Larry Klein showed the way with 654 and his nearest rival was Le Tonte with 600.

GREG WIZGIRD learned what it is like to draw a frown from Lady Luck when you are on the way to what looks like a perfect game.

Bowling at Woodland Lanes, he registered the

first nine strikes. Then, the lady frowned and he had to settle for a 275 game and a 673 series.

In the junior house league, Don Pleshok showed the way with 656. In the Keglerettes circuit, Dot Elenick was high with a 250 in 634 and Chris Snyder paced the Delighters with a 582 that included an opener of 224. He carries a 137 average.

THE LADIES CLASSIC at Westland Bowl had another close finish when Judy Whalen, with a 615, finished only five pins ahead of Cyndi Edwards. Sandy Marsh trailed in third place with 588, while Toni Smith posted a 245 for high game.

Meanwhile, Marty Boron rolled her first 600 series when she posted a 641 that included games of 231 and 236.

JERRY HAY earned membership in the exclusive 700 club at Bel-Aire Lanes when he rolled a 713 to pace the classic.

He got away to a great start with a 278, then added games of 222 and 213.

Following him on the high-score list were Bill Mule with 692, Tony Stupple with 671 and Roy Davis with 667. Chuck Roanne had a 279 for high game of the night.

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