

Row, row, row, go the OLSM crewmen

By C.J. RISAK

Suppose, just suppose, you had to go to work very early one morning, say, about 5:30. It's early spring, and a mist hangs over the land, as often happens before the sunrise.

You're driving along, alone on the road, and find yourself driving past the Orchard Lake St. Mary campus. Suddenly, you hear a shout from somewhere near your car. Then another, and another, loud but in a rhythmic pattern. You glance to your right and to your left, your curiosity aroused. Nothing can be seen through the mist, even though it is now gradually clearing. What could that noise be, you wonder out loud to yourself.

Then, you look in a direction you hadn't considered before — out over the river. And there is the source of the puzzling noise, eight high school boys rowing in a boat, with a smaller lad yelling at them through a megaphone. Not likely to happen, you say? The

greatest unlikelihood of that fable is that someone might be driving by on their way to work at such an early hour.

For if they were, they might see the only rowing team in this area practicing at one of the only times they are able to.

Orchard Lake St. Mary adopted crew as a sport three years ago. When they did, they got the most experienced rowing coach in the state to handle the team — Jud Ross.

ROSS' CAREER DATES back to 1938, when, in his own words, "I first brought high school rowing to Michigan." The sport hasn't exactly caught on like wildfire throughout the state. About nine other schools in the Detroit area offer crew.

But that hasn't dampened Ross' spirit or his feelings for the sport. He first got into rowing at the University of Michigan, where he emigrated to Salinas, DelSalle, and St. Anthony.

His efforts are not limited to coaching crew on the high school level.

"I really want to start an independent club in this area," Ross said. "This (St. Mary campus) is such an ideal place. It's very possible that some national events could be held here in the future."

Selling his sport hasn't been easy, as few schools can afford to adopt it in these money-tight days. It has taken its toll on Ross.

"I've been begging, pioneering, bor-

rowing and stealing for so long (to help this sport)," Ross said. "Now I'd like to form some sort of a committee to help get a club going. St. Mary's already said their facilities would be available to us."

Ross confesses he doesn't know what the attraction of the sport is. Rowers are up at five in the morning for a 60-minute workout, then get in another hour-long session in the evening. It is only during those times that the water is smooth enough to allow a workout.

IN ADDITION TO two workouts a day, rowers must stay in condition year-round, working out with weights and running during the off-season.

"Rowing really catches on once people get behind it. It's a year-round conditioning program. There is no star on a team — they're as good as the weakest man."

While crew might be a new sport to this area, it's big in places downriver, like Trenton and Wyandotte. And, according to Ross, at schools in Canada, as many as 400 kids go out for rowing.

St. Mary isn't in the downriver schools' class as of yet. But they are coming along.

"Most of this year's team is green," Ross said. "We lost a good senior boat (from last year) and only have four with experience. But we have a lot of freshmen who will gain some experience this year."

There are 23 members of the St. Mary team, two of which are coxswain,

the men in the rear of the boat who yell out the instructions.

"They are almost midsize-sized," Ross said about the coxswain. "But they have to be bossy and loud. This gives the smaller boys a chance to do something athletically."

There is no varsity schedule for St. Mary's crew team, although they face crews from both the state and Canada. On Wednesday, the Eagles took part in the Hebda Memorial Regatta, in Wyandotte, in which all the local teams took part.

"I tell the boys, 'Mileage makes champions,' so they get in as much as possible in each workout."

"But, you know, it takes more than strength to be a winner in rowing. All members of the crew have to be pulling in unison. I always say they have to be big and strong from the neck up, too."

Crew will never challenge football or basketball as the most popular high school sport. But for a bunch of boys at St. Mary, it's the only sport.

Farmington Observer

SPORTS

Monday, April 30, 1979

(FHC)

North downs GC East



North's Mark Biehl psyches himself before hurling the discus.

North Farmington's trackmen dodged the raindrops last Thursday and came away wet but happy with a 67-40 victory over Garden City East in a Northwest Suburban League meet in Garden City.

"Put it this way: we swam away," joked Ed Davis, North's assistant coach. "In our league, the dual meets are half the championship. We have a real tight schedule, and we'd have a hard time rescheduling this meet."

North's Mike Miller won the 100-yard dash in 10.5, and teammate Mark Biehl won the discus throw at 127-0. Paul Welch won the mile run in 4:49.0, and Jeff Temple won the half mile in 2:10.0. East's Matt Stempel won the pole vault at 10-0.

Earlier last week, North Farmington topped Westland John Glenn, 67-65, in another NSL meet on North's new meter track.

Welch won two events, the 1,600-meter run (4:30) and the 3,200-meter run (9:51.0). Biehl won the discus (105-0), and Bob Morden took the pole vault (18-0).

Glenn's Brad Jennings won the high jump (6-2) and the 110-meter hurdles (1:16.1). Teammate John Hoofien won the long jump (19-8) and the 400-meter dash (52.9).

In another meet last week, Farmington Harrison bested Southfield High, 68-64, in a non-league meet at Harrison.

Harrison had double winners in Bill Shankle and Ken Kopko. Shankle won the discus (135-2) and the shot put (44%). Kopko, a sophomore, won the 100-yard dash (10.7) and the 440-yard dash (53.5). John Engholm won the mile run (4:35.0), Peter Lundberg won the 880-yard run (2:07.0), John Anderson won the two-mile run (10:04) and Sterling Herrman won the 120-yard high hurdles (17.1).

The Farmington High-Milford Lake land track meet was one of the many victims of last Thursday's rain storm. The meet has been rescheduled for Monday May 14.

Outlast RU, 6-5

By C.J. RISAK

Chuck Cislo provided the winning hit — a single which scored teammate Jim Romano from second base — as Farmington High outlasted Redford Union, 6-5, in nine innings last Wednesday in a non-league baseball game at RU. The victory put Farmington at 1-1.

Bob Collins, a senior shortstop, was another batting star for Farmington, going four for four (three singles and a double) and driving in three runs. Farmington had nine hits.

Greg Kuhnlein, a senior right-hander, replaced starter Larry Mendelson in the first inning and pitched the rest of the game to pick up the victory. Kuhnlein yielded four hits, fanned seven and walked two.

"Greg has a real good overhand curve, which drops," said Farmington coach Harry Swystun. "He also has good control, walking only two batters in the nine innings."

"I'm pleased with the way we're playing now," Swystun said. "Our defense is sound — we've made only three errors so far. If we can get the bats going, we'll be fine."

Farmington travels to Pontiac Northern for an Inter Lakes League

game on Monday (April 30) at 4 p.m.

NORTH FARMINGTON 9 WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 1

North Farmington won its fourth-straight game last week with a 9-1 victory over Westland John Glenn in the Northwest Suburban League.

Senior Ron Fredericks was the winning pitcher, working 5 1/2 innings, striking out three and walking one and giving up six hits. Mike Thompson pitched the rest of the game.

North, which had 10 hits, was led by Rich Nutter (two singles and two RBIs), Rex Baxter (two singles, two RBIs) and Tom Jeffery (one single, two RBIs).

On Tuesday (May 1), North Farmington continues NSL competition with a 3:30 p.m. game at Redford Thurston.

WEST BLOOMFIELD 11 WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 1

Dave Long pitched and batted West Bloomfield to an 11-1 victory over Wall Lake Central last week in a non-league baseball game on West Bloomfield's diamond.

Long, a senior, was the winning

pitcher, going the full seven innings, giving up nine hits and striking out nine. Long also slugged a three-run homer in the first inning, when West Bloomfield scored five runs.

Bob Pascetti had three hits in four trips and drove in two runs for West Bloomfield. Teammates Dave Ward and Jim Arnold each went two for four, and Arnold stole two bases.

West Bloomfield plays next on Monday (April 30) at home against Clarkston High. Game time is 4 p.m.

OL. ST. MARY 3 MT. CARMEL 2

Brian Jateczak's squeeze bunt scored Dave Kay in the sixth inning to help Orchard Lake St. Mary past Wyandotte Mt. Carmel, 3-2, in a Catholic League West Division baseball game last week. OLSM is 4-1 overall and 2-1 in the league.

Winning pitcher Nua Vucina, a senior right-hander, pitched a five-hitter to lift his season record to 3-0. He struck out seven and walked three. Both Mt. Carmel runs were unearned.

OLSM entertains Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard on Tuesday (May 1) at 4 p.m.

Falcon softballers win 1st

By TOM BAER

Farmington High softball coach Vestus Spindler knows he has a pitching ace in junior Betsy VanDeusen.

VanDeusen scattered five hits, struck out 10 and walked nine last week to lead Farmington past non-league Southfield-Lathrup, 10-4. The victory left Farmington with a 1-1 record this spring.

"Betsy was sharp — much improved over last year," Spindler said after the game. "Those nine walks don't look good on paper, but some of the walks came on questionable calls. She was in the strike zone most of the time."

Farmington, which had eight hits in the game, scored six runs in the fifth inning. Leadoff hitter Michelle Thorstad had three hits and scored three runs. Denise Goyette and Kay Deeg each walked twice with the bases loaded, producing a total of four runs.

Farmington plays next on Monday (April 30) at home against Pontiac Northern. The Inter Lakes League game begins at 4 p.m.

Lori Webb, a senior right-hander, pitched a four-hitter last week to pace Farmington Harrison's 8-3 victory over Northville High in Western Six League softball. Webb struck out three and walked two.

Kathy Corbett paced Harrison's 10-hit attack with a sixth-inning triple which drove in two runs. Debbie Goodwin knocked in three runs with a bases-loaded double in the fifth. Webb and Sharon Agar each drove in a run.

Harrison plays next on Monday (April 30) at home against Plymouth Canton, a Western Six League opponent.

WEST BLOOMFIELD 17 WALLED LK. CENTRAL 8

Sandy DeSilvio drove in two runs with a homer and two doubles to pace West Bloomfield's 17-8 softball victory over Wall Lake Central last week in the season opener for coach Bill Mason's Lakers.

West Bloomfield, which pounded out 13 hits, got strong performances from Stephanie Smith (triple, single, two RBIs), Jeanne Freed (two hits and two

RBIs), and Cindy Spehn (two singles, four RBIs). Winning pitcher Lynn Gerber worked the entire game, fanning one, walking two and allowing 10 hits.

West Bloomfield confronts Waterford Kettering on Monday at 4 p.m.

JOHN GLENN 21 NORTH FARMINGTON 4

Westland John Glenn battered North Farmington, 21-4, last week, but Raiders coach Dave Finney isn't discouraged.

"Defensively, our girls did well when they had a chance to make a play," said Finney, whose 1978 Raiders won only two games in 15 starts. "We're going to be much better in the field this season."

Losing pitcher Sandy Stumpf allowed only four hits, but had control trouble and walked 19 batters. Terr Christian had two hits and drove in a run for North Farmington.

On Tuesday (May 1), North Farmington hosts Redford Thurston for a Northwest Suburban League contest at 4 p.m.

Lakers outrun Kettering

West Bloomfield's boys' and girls' track teams traveled to Waterford Kettering last Tuesday and — thanks to some cooperation from Mother Nature — managed to get in their first dual meet of the season, as the Lakers thrashed Kettering, 98½-33½ in the boys' meet, and 78-45 in the girls'.

It wasn't much of a contest for the Lakers males, as they claimed first place in 12 of the 15 events. Jeff Cox and Rex Fitzekam each won two individual events, with Cox also taking part in a winning relay.

The Laker girls had little more trouble, winning nine of the 15 events. Vivian MacKenzie and Monique Orminkowski each won two individual events and ran a leg of a winning relay.

Both teams are now 1-0 on the season.

Cox was the victor in the 100 and 220 yard dashes, with times of 10.2 and 22.6. Fitzekam ran the one and two mile events, winning the first in 4:38.0 and the second in 10:07.6.

Other first place finishers for the Laker boys were Rick Wilson in the discus (123 feet, 11½ inches); Chris Mayone in the 140-yard high hurdles (15.5); Mark Stinchcomb in the pole vault (11 feet); Rick Mitchley in the 440-yard run (53.8); Bob Long in the 330-yard low hurdles (41.8); and Greg Schroeder in the 880-yard run (2:01.5).

Cox combined with Gary Schroeder, Jim Bitner, and Kevin Chudler for a win in the 440-yard relay (45.3), while both Greg and Gary Schroeder, along

with Bitner and Long, took the mile relay (3:35.6).

For the girls, Orminkowski was victorious in both the 110 and 220 yard dashes (18.2 and 28.1), while MacKenzie's wins came in the 100 and 220 yard dashes (11.1 and 26.1).

Jeanie Mayone won the shotput for West Bloomfield (39 feet, nine inches), while Barbara Allen took the 880-yard run (2:32.3) and Cindy Poly won the two mile run (12:53.1).

The 880-yard relay team of Lisa Gagnon, Lisa Fitzekam, Kathy Bitner and MacKenzie finished first (1:56.5), while Orminkowski, Gagnon, MacKenzie and Fitzekam won the 440-yard relay (51.5).

Both Laker squads will entertain Milford's teams on May 1.

Are
you
a nut
about sports
?

"Superfan" Ron Cameron gives you a chance to prove it.

Telephone Ron "on the air" any night, Monday through Saturday, from 6 to 8 PM and "tell it like it is." The sports fans' point-of-view is what his show is all about. Special guests from the world of sports are on hand to give you a real "inside look" at your favorite sport. Athletes, coaches, umpires, owners and other sports guests give you, the fan, a chance to get the "straight skinny." You'll hear sports facts and opinions that you can't get anywhere else. Listen to WXYZ TalkRadio... for a real live change.

sportstalk:
WXYZ RADIO 1270 abc