

Falcon pole vaulter wins at County Meet

By TOM BAER

Farmington High pole vaulter Jim Branchau, who has qualified for the state Class A finals on June 2, tuned up for the big meet last Saturday at the Oakland County boys' track meet at Oxford High School.

Branchau, a senior, finished first in the pole vault at the county meet with a 13-foot-6 vault, giving Farmington High all of its 10 team points in the meet. Birmingham Seaholm's Jim Roth also went 13-6, but with three more misses.

"I expected him to be one of the top three vaulters," said Farmington coach Dave Catherman. "He's very consistent — probably one of the most consistent vaulters I've ever coached. He's never been under 13 feet all year."

North Farmington had four scoring performances and scored nine points in the County Meet.

North distance runner Paul Welch, who is headed for Western Michigan University next fall, finished third in the two-mile run with a 9:35.6 clocking, which shattered the Raider record. Clarkston's Gordon Sanders won the two-mile in 9:27.9, and Royal Oak Dondoro's Mike Lasley finished second. North's Mark Biehl finished sixth in the 1000-meter run with a throw of 149-2, far short of his season-best 171. Team-

mates Karl Hamina and Rich Burrell also scored. Burrell took sixth in the pole vault (12-6) and Hamina went 52.3 in the 440-yard dash for another sixth. "We just did not do the job," said North assistant coach Ed Davis. "No way could we get excited about those nine points we scored — especially when we finished fourth last year with just about the same team."

The county meet was bad news for North pole vaulter Bob Morden, who probably could have challenged Branchau and the county's other top vaulters. Morden injured his foot last Friday during the warmups, just a few minutes before officials cancelled the meet because of rain. The meet was reset for Saturday, but Morden couldn't participate.

Farmington Harrison scored eight points in the meet, thanks to Ken Kopko and John Anderson.

Hawk softballers advance

Farmington Harrison stayed alive in the Class A state softball tournament with a 16-2 thumping of Detroit Mumford in a pre-district game last Tuesday afternoon at Detroit's Softball City. The game was halted after five innings on a mercy rule.

Winning pitcher Lori Webb, who worked the first four innings, raised her record to 7-1. She gave up only three hits, struck out five and walked four before being lifted in favor of Barbara Erickson.

Harrison, which had 11 hits in the game, scored 11 runs on five hits in the fifth inning. Geri Marcellino had three hits in four trips and knocked in two runs. Webb and Linda Bahe each had two hits and drove in two runs. Kathy Purcell went one for three and drove in three runs.

Harrison, now 15-2 overall, plays



Kopko, a sophomore, took third place in the 440 dash with a time of 59.8. Mark Rasendez of Lake Orion won the 440 at 49.85, and Dondoro's Brad Cochran was second at 49.9.

Harrison coach Bob Sutter has high hopes for Kopko. "He's a real strong kid with a good attitude about the sport," the coach said. "He's a good student, too, with a 4.0 grade-point average."

Livonia Stevenson in the Class A district at 10 a.m. on Saturday (June 2) at the Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen Road.

FARMINGTON HIGH 9 SOUTHFIELD HIGH 4

Winning pitcher Jean Zuborski worked 3½ innings of relief and drove in two runs with two hits Tuesday, as Farmington High battered Southfield High, 9-4, in a pre-district softball game at Farmington.

Farmington had 10 hits. Wendy Dierkes went three for four, drove in two runs and scored one. Southfield had six hits.

Farmington plays next on Thursday (May 31) at North Farmington. The Class A district resumes for the Falcons on Saturday at the Civic Center in Southfield.

Salem eliminates Raiders

Plymouth Salem, with Barry Owens pitching a six-hitter and Matt Etienne pounding a three-run homer, eliminated North Farmington, 4-2, last Tuesday in a state Class A pre-district baseball game in Plymouth. The loss was North's fifth of the season against 13 victories.

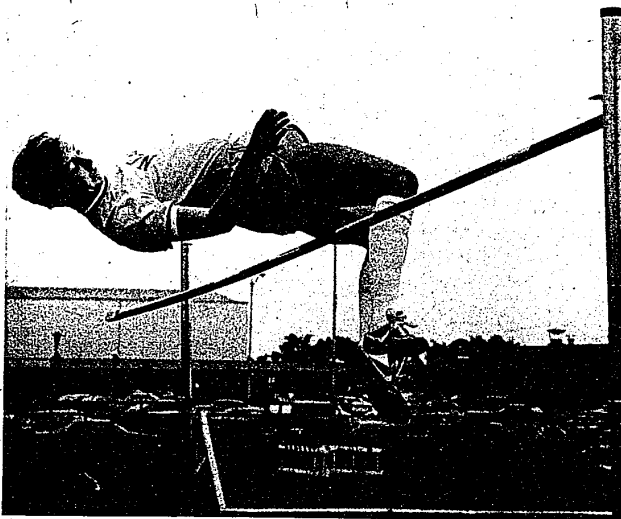
Owens fanned two and walked four. "Owens rose to the occasion," said Salem coach Brian Gilles. "He seemed to find his rhythm in the middle innings."

Salem had only two hits off losing

pitcher Ron Fredericks, but one of them was the three-run round-tripper by center fielder Etienne in the fourth inning. Fredericks, now 5-2, struck out three and walked two.

North scored both its runs in the first inning. Mike Thompson walked, went to second on Ron Nuttner's single and scored on Tom Godwin's single. Fredericks' double drove in Godwin.

Salem, now 15-5 overall, survives to play in the Class A district semifinals on Saturday.



North's Rob Henderhan fails to clear 6-foot-6 in a recent high jump event. (Staff photo by Bob Woodring)

W. Bloomfield '9' falls, 1-0

By C.J. RISAK

It just wasn't a fitting way for the West Bloomfield baseball team to finish the season.

After winning 12 straight games to start the season, after easily winning the Greater Oakland Athletic League title, after getting pitchers who completed 17 of 18 games and gave up less than two walks a contest, and after compiling a team batting average in the .300s for most of the season, the Lakers faltered late in the season and fell to Romeo, 1-0, in a state pre-district contest at Romeo Tuesday.

"It was a tough one to lose," was all a disappointed Jeff Saarey, the West Bloomfield coach, could say.

After the great start, the Lakers suffered three straight losses, all by shutouts. The team seemingly broke out of that slump with a doubleheader win last week over Southfield-Lathrup.

However, the Lakers batsmen could do nothing against Romeo starter Howard Madden, who fired a two-hitter and allowed only two walks while striking out seven.

Steve Sudbay started and took the loss for West Bloomfield. The senior right-hander surrendered six hits and one walk and struck out six.

The only run of the contest was scored in the bottom of the seventh as Mark Thom collected a one-out single. He was sacrificed to second and came home on Joe Doss' clutch, two-out base hit.

THE LAKERS' BEST scoring opportunity came in the fifth inning, as Mike Roman led off with a single but was erased when he tried to go to second on a fly ball to right field. Dave Long then got the Lakers' second hit, a double, but he was stranded there.

The loss ended the season for West Bloomfield, which finished with a 14-4

record. The Lakers played their final regular season game Wednesday against Detroit Catholic Central.

Orchard Lake St. Mary ended their season last Saturday, as the Eagles fell to St. Agatha, 3-1.

Joe Bok, who earlier last week had hurled a no-hitter, couldn't recapture that form and lasted only one and a third innings against St. Agatha. He gave up four hits, two walks and a run. Meanwhile, St. Agatha's Dan Knitel proved to be too much for the Eagles, as he pitched all seven innings, allowing seven hits and three walks while fanning seven, and also scored the first run for St. Agatha and knocked in the eventual game winner.

With one out in the first inning, Knitel and Al Jones both walked. Jim Vincentini hit a grounder to first and was retired, but Jones was caught in a rundown between first and second and stayed in the "pickle" long enough to

allow Knitel to score the game's first run.

OLSM tied it in the fifth, as Dan Butcher singled, went to second on a sacrifice bunt by Bob Miletich and scored on Charlie Olszewski's double.

But St. Agatha took the game with single runs in the fifth and sixth. Ernie Oyer started it off with a base hit off of Al Vincentini, who had relieved Bok in the second inning. Knitel then doubled to score Oyer with the eventual winning run.

Knitel was trying to stretch his hit into a triple, and Vincunaj got out of further trouble. In the sixth, Dennis Fracassi singled and went to second on a passed ball and scored an insurance run on a base hit by Bob Cooke.

St. Agatha outlit the Eagles in the contest, 9-7. Each team committed one error.

The loss ended OLSM's season with a 12-11 mark.

all over the area — from Delleville to South Lyon and from Livonia and Plymouth to Westland and Wayne.

The club's basic premise is to provide young wrestlers with the chance to learn the two more obscure styles of wrestling and be able to use them in competition.

Seven years ago, the Spartan Club was formed under the sponsorship of the YMCA. Last year, the club changed and went independent, hoping to appeal to more participants.

Wiebeck, who wrestled for 20 years, graduated from Redford Thurston and now lives in Livonia. He qualified for the 1954 Olympics and won several major tournaments in his day.

"Our job is to provide wrestlers from Michigan for the Olympics," said Wiebeck. "We look at that as a number one goal. The boys, however, always come first. They are our primary concern. We want them to realize all the potential they have in this life."

Wiebeck looks at his coaching in an unusual way. He is just finishing up his education at Eastern Michigan University with a major in psychology and a minor in philosophy and at times it almost seems as if he takes his studies out onto the mat.

"When we first take anyone into the club, the most important thing we need to know from him (or her) is whether or not he is wrestling for himself and his own good," Wiebeck said.

"We really don't want to accept someone who is forced into the sport for a vicarious reason. They have to put their hearts into it."

"Wrestling is that kind of sport. It's very, very tough and we work the kids pretty hard. But then again, the goal they set is one that needs to be worked toward. We can usually tell with someone new whether or not he is being pushed into it by his parents or whether it stems from his own motivation."

And tough it is. The team practices three to five days a week, up to five hours a session. The practices are grueling, but that happens to be Wiebeck's wrestling and coaching method.

Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestling are very different from the more common collegiate (high school) wrestling, according to Wiebeck. The action in the first two styles is much faster with many more possible moves.

At the beginning of each round — in Greco-Roman and freestyle — the wrestlers start from a standing position unlike collegiate where the wrestlers begin the second and third rounds from a down position.

(Continued on page 4B)

Spartan wrestlers draw fans

By KEN VOYLES

There are many forms of wrestling, including professional, collegiate, and Olympic styles. In area high schools, collegiate wrestling is king. Olympic style, which includes Greco-

Roman and freestyle wrestling, is vastly different and less common than any of the other forms, but it is also probably the most exciting.

Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestling are also the only styles recognised on the amateur level in the country.

Gerald Wiebeck and Ed Fowler coach the Spartan Wrestling Club, where young wrestlers learn the art of Olympic wrestling in both the Greco-Roman and freestyle forms.

The club, which is not centered in any one city, takes in members from



Ken Coleman tries to pin Ed Fowler during a workout with the Spartan Wrestling Club. (Staff photo by Bob Woodring)

LAWN SAVERS

Save money, water, time, work and your landscape investment.

Water your lawn with a

RAIN-BIRD®
underground sprinkler system
(it costs less than you think).



DO IT YOURSELF® as low as \$400.*

FREE: Custom design to fit your yard
FREE: Installation instructions
FREE: Cost estimates

*Or we'll recommend a qualified installer.

(Approx. 50' x 80' lot — depends on individual survey)

ASK US — WE'RE THE ANSWER PEOPLE

Beat the rush! For complete information call —



358-2992
22159 TELEGRAPH ROAD
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48034
Blwn. 8 & 9 Mile Rd.

588-2990
31691 DEQUINDRE
MADISON HTS., MI 48071
Blwn. 13 & 14 Mile Rd.

Repairs or replacements for all makes of sprinklers.