

Prep trackmen limber up

By TOM BAER

During the past couple of years, North Farmington's track team has become known for its quick sprinters, strong-armed weight men and other field-event types. The team will have a different look this spring.

At Farmington High, second-year coach Dave Catherman is counting on a couple of good jumpers and a pack of distance runners to make his team competitive again in the Inter Lakes League.

Another sophomore coach, Farmington Harrison's Bob Sutter, hopes that some depth in the relay events will help his squad improve on its next-to-last-place finish in the Western Six League last season.

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

Harrison, now a Class B school, will run in the Huron Relays B meet on Friday night, March 23. Farmington and North will participate in the Class A meet on Saturday.

At North Farmington, coaches Ron Holland and Ed Davis are rebuilding after losing 13 lettersmen to graduation. "We've got a lot of holes to fill," said Davis, the assistant coach. "We're especially hurting in the sprints and field events. That's where we've been strong for the past couple of years."

"The balance will be shifted this year," he said. "Instead of the sprints and field events carrying us, it'll be the distance men."

SOME DISTANCE prospects include seniors Gregg Rapp, Rich Fruitman, Jamie Bothwell and Dave Hooper. Rapp ran a 4:36.0 indoor mile during the winter.

And North won't be weak in the middle distances with sophomore Jim Winterbottom (2:05 in a practice 800) and

senior Karl Hamina (51.8 quarter). Senior Rick Roth and junior Ted Cass have been working out over the hurdles.

North won't be completely out of it in the sprints and weight events as long as seniors George Houtteker and Dan Cohen are around. Houtteker, an outstanding football lineman and wrestler, threw the shot 50 feet 4 inches last year. Cohen went 10.3 in the 100.

Another field prospect is junior Kevin Kangas, who transferred from Farmington High. He pole vaulted around 12 feet last season.

Last year, North finished with an 8-1 overall record and a 4-1 mark in the Northwest Suburban League. Westland John Glenn was the league champion.

This spring North opens its outdoor season at home against Livonia Franklin, an NSL opponent, on April 17 — the first Thursday after spring break.

"If our kids come back with an A-1 sunburn, then we're hurting," Davis said.

LACK OF BODIES won't be a problem for Farmington's Catherman this spring. He's working with 52 hopefuls, including some standouts from last season.

"It's an overused phrase, but I'm cautiously optimistic," Catherman said. "I'm real pleased with what I've seen so far. The kids have been working very hard, and the time-trial results have been encouraging."

Two Farmington trackmen, junior Craig Kieley and senior Rick Curtis, distinguished themselves recently in the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association (MITCA) championships indoors at the University of Michigan.

Kieley leapt 6-4 to finish fourth in the high jump, and Curtis long jumped 21 1/4 for sixth place.

Several experienced distance runners come from coach Gerald Young's cross country team. John Murphy, an all-ILL barrier last fall, has turned in a 9:42.2 two mile. Other distance men: senior Eric Leidlein, juniors Dave Denny and Pat Shelly and sophomore Bill Atkinson.

Farmington also has a pair of promising hurdlers in seniors Dave Erwin and Chris Reynolds, and a couple of sprinters in junior Kevin Davis and sophomore Jeff Beard.

"Our long suits this year will be the distances, the relays, the jumping field events and the hurdles," Catherman said. "Our weaknesses will be in the shot put and the discus. As I need more depth in the quarter and half."

FARMINGTON, WHICH finished third in the ILL behind Livonia Stevenson and Pontiac Northern last year, opens its dual-meet season April 15 at home against non-league Southfield High. Ken Kopko, who scored 90 points for the team as a sophomore. He was the WSL's top man in the 100 and quarter. This year, he'll try the discus, too.

The more experience Hawks are seniors Cliff Norton (12-9 in the pole vault last year), Jeff White (sprinter) and Sterling Herrmann (hurdler). Harrison has three junior distance men in Dave Tremonti, Brad Senko and Brian Anderson.

Other hopefuls include juniors Steve Shanborn (high jump) and Don Gully (quarter mile), and sophomores Art Wilhelm (high jump) and Steve Sweetney (sprints).

"I hope we'll be stronger in the relays this year," Sutter said. "Relays were our downfall last year. We'd win the 100, 220, mile and two mile, but the field events and the relays would kill us."

Harrison opens its dual-meet season April 24 at home against Walled Lake Western, a Western Six League opponent.

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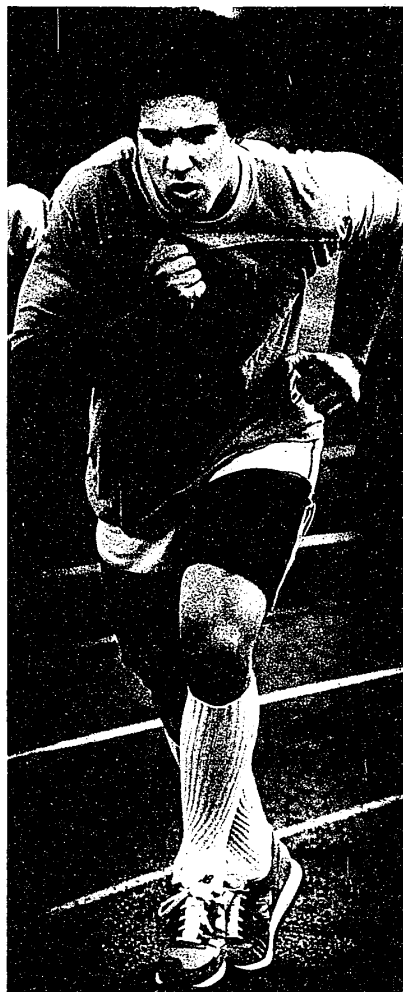
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North coach Ron Holland holds a watch on some track hopefuls. (Staff photos by Randy Bors)



Mike Talcott tries the high jump at North Farmington.



Dan Colon chugs along during a recent practice at North Farmington High School.

Bloomfield Hills schools dominate skiing squads

By BOB GROSS

the Eccentric All-Area ski teams.

two and Andover placed one.

Maybe Bloomfield's hills have something to do with it.

At any rate, three Bloomfield Hills schools — Cranbrook, Kingswood and Andover — dominate the 1979-1980 versions of

Cranbrook's Tom Gemmell leads off the first team selections. The only repeater from last year's all-area squad, Gemmell finished fourth in the state meet at Nube Knob in the giant slalom and

fifth in the slalom. Gemmell helped his team to a sixth-place finish in the state meet. He was also a big reason for the Cranes' 8-0 regular season dual meet record.

Gemmell was also a big reason for Cranbrook's wins in the Mt. Holly Invitational Ski Meet with seconds in the slalom and giant slalom, in the Pine Knob Regional with a first in the giant slalom and a third in the slalom, and in the Mt. Holly Divisional with a first in the slalom.

Gemmell didn't do it all by himself, however. He got plenty of help from teammates Kurt Zimmerman and C.J. Chesquiere, also first-team all-area selections.

ZIMMERMAN LED Cranbrook in the Mt. Holly Invitational with a first-place finish in the slalom. He was second in the slalom in the Pine Knob regional, and he won the giant slalom in the Mt. Holly Divisional.

Chesquiere was 18th in the slalom and 24th in the giant slalom in the state meet. He was fifth in the slalom and sixth in the giant slalom in the Pine Knob Regional. Chesquiere was second in the slalom and third in the giant slalom in the Mt. Holly Divisional.

(Continued on page 2D)

All-Area ski teams

BOYS' TEAM

FIRST TEAM — Tom Gemmell, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook; Kurt Zimmerman, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook; C.J. Chesquiere, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook; Steve Luppenlatz, Bloomfield Hills Andover; Paul Mooradian, Bloomfield Hills Andover; Alex Blum, Bloomfield Hills Andover.

SECOND TEAM — Jess Graves, Rochester Adams; Jeff O'Beare, Rochester Adams; Fred Schaenzle, Rochester Adams; Jim Kilsook, Bloomfield Hills Andover; Todd Walker, Bloomfield Hills Andover; Chris McClellan, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

HONORABLE MENTION — Mark Midgely, Rochester; Dave Hilborn, Rochester; Dave Robinson, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook; Craig Danuloff, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook; John Rooney, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; Bob Hill, Rochester Adams; Andy Savin, West Bloomfield.

GIRLS' TEAM

FIRST TEAM — Lindsey Alkens, Bloomfield Hills Kingswood; Amy Honer, Bloomfield Hills Kingswood; Linda Rosalik, Bloomfield Hills Kingswood; Dana Chladek, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; Becky Johnson, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; Lisa Dove, Bloomfield Hills Andover.

SECOND TEAM — Lindley Ziegler, Bloomfield Hills Andover; Sandy Leonard, Bloomfield Hills Andover; Ann Krsul, Bloomfield Hills Kingswood; Natalie Hofland, Bloomfield Hills Kingswood; Barb Bates, Rochester; Ann Robinson, Rochester Adams.

HONORABLE MENTION — Carolyn Kresjl, West Bloomfield; Gay Stivaletta, West Bloomfield; Molly Kelly, Birmingham Seaholm; Patty Yearn, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; Lynn Boehringer, Bloomfield Hills Andover; Yvette Abbott, Walled Lake Central.

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