

Monday, August 25, 1980

Farmington, NF harriers to present stiff challenges

By SCOTT ADLER

Coach Jerry Young thinks his Farmington Falcons, although young and inexperienced, have a good shot at repeating as cross country champs of the Inter-Lakes League.

"I think we've got a decent chance of repeating," said Young. "Basically, we're young and inexperienced, but we do have some good kids that have had some running experience."

The three top returnees from last year's championship team are juniors Bill Atkinson and Bill Anglin and senior Tom Peiten.

"We've lost John Murphy (two-time league champ) to graduation, so we're not as strong as we have been in past years, but our returnees will help us," said Young.

Sophomores Leo Laidlein and Lenny Pitel along with Bruce Rutela are looking pretty good, and Young is expecting them to step in and help out immediately.

"I think that this year will be full of question marks," Young said. "We'll have to wait and see."

"Livonia Stevenson should be tough, and Milford Lakeland could be, too. Lakeland has some kids back, and they finished second last year."

Young has been coaching for 15 years, and his Falcons have been league champs five of the last six years.

FIRST YEAR COACH John Schumacher of Farmington Harrison is not sure what to expect from his team this year.

"We don't have the base (background) I would like," said Schumacher. "We have a lot of new kids out this year, and they're working hard."

"We'll just approach our season and see what happens and try to improve on last year's record."

Schumacher has coached cross coun-

try and track for 12 years at Farmington Warner Junior high school and is hoping to turn around the usually weak Harrison program.

Leading the list of returnees is Clay Dillon and Dave Tremonti, both seniors who, Schumacher said, "look quite strong."

With senior Brian Anderson and junior Mark Conlardi both look fit, along with first-year runners Maury Nussbaum and Dale Black, the Hawks are looking better than in past years.

"Black and Nussbaum are looking very good," said Schumacher. "We haven't had any time trials yet. Right now, we're getting in a lot of distance work."

Rounding out the roster for Harrison are Chris Covitz, Dan Dinkin, Gary Whitman, Jeff Yorick, Phil Kimler and Kevin Mitchell.

Schumacher foresees traditional powerhouse Livonia Churchill as the favorite along with Northville.

ANOTHER FIRST-YEAR coach, Alan Van Meter, believes his North Farmington team can improve on its third place finish in the Northwest Suburban League a year ago.

"We're playing to win," said Van Meter, who coached at Harrison last year. "We've got a decent, well rounded team and I think we've got a chance."

Leading the way for the Raiders is junior Rich Fruitman, the top returning letterman.

"Rich is coming along very well," said Van Meter. "He has been running all summer long, and so he is ahead of the others."

John Winterbottom is out for his first year in cross country and Van Meter believes the junior's his strong track background will help the team immensely.



Rich Fruitman (left), North Farmington's best runner back from last season, jogs with coach Alan Van Meter. (Staff photos by Randy Bors)



Bill Anglin, who was part of Farmington's Inter-Lakes League championship team last year, returns this autumn to help lead the Falcons to possibly another title.

Lutheran High N^west relocates back to Hills

By SCOTT ADLER

Lutheran High School Northwest is moving up in the world and Athletic Director George Lemke couldn't be happier.

"We're very happy to be here," said Lemke of his school's move from Birmingham back to Farmington Hills in what used to be Highmeadow Elementary School. "Our needs are met and even though we're a little short on gym space, we hope to erect a high school size gym in the next two years."

Two years ago, Clayton Hufnagel and Lemke, along with a few other teachers, started a school for 65 students in the educational wing of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, which Lemke said "met our needs very nicely then."

Last year, the school grew to 104 students and Hufnagel and Lemke looked for a school site or a closing building because of the need for larger facilities.

"We finally moved to the Redemer Lutheran Church in Birmingham," said Lemke, "and that met our educational needs also. But again it was in the educational wing of a church and we wanted a school."

Lemke found out about the declining enrollment in the Highmeadow Elementary School. "We put a bid on it, and after the allotted time they accepted," he said. "We couldn't be happier."

HIGHMEADOW, located on Highmeadow Road between 12 and 13 Mile and Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Road, was closed by the Board of Education. Now it seems Lutheran High Northwest has found a permanent home.

"Right now we have about the same enrollment as last year (104 students), but we may have about 120 by Labor Day," Lemke said. "A figure that right now this school could hold 480 students, but I really don't think that it will ever get that far."

Northwest will have two sports teams — one boys' and one girls' — in the fall and winter seasons. Three teams will be fielded in the spring.

Fall sports include boys soccer and girls basketball. Because of lack of students, the boys soccer team will not have a junior varsity team although the basketball team will.

"Right now we don't have all the sports other larger schools do but our kids are actively involved," Lemke said.

In the winter, the sports teams will include boys basketball and girls volleyball. Both teams will have junior varsity sports programs.

Lemke says the spring sports will include boys and girls track, and baseball and softball. Although the school doesn't have a track, it does have diamonds for the baseball and softball teams.

"Right now we will just have away meets," said Lemke, "but in the near future, within the next couple of years we hope to build a track."

Since the school is located in a former elementary school, the girls and boys basketball will be played in another Lutheran school in Northville.

"WE WILL BE playing our basketball games in St. Paul's Lutheran School in Northville," said Lemke. "It's only about 20 minutes away from here and I don't think it will hurt our program at all. I'm very optimistic."

Northwest will compete in the Michigan Ingle-

pendent Athletic Conference (MIAC) with five other teams, all of which are Class B schools. The schools include University Liggett, Southfield Christian, Oakland Christian in Pontiac, Huron Valley Lutheran in Inkster and Baptist Academy in Roseville.

The fact that these are Class B schools and Northwest is only Class D doesn't seem to bother Lemke.

"The competition in our league is very strong," he said. "Sure, we've taken our lumps, but we've seen good progress in our play and in our players. We'll be competitive very soon. All our teams are starting to jell."

Lemke would like to see the school's enrollment grow over the years to around 400 students, which would enable the sports programs to grow also.

"THAT WOULD move us up to Class C, but our growth is very slow."

"If we could get it up to around 400, then we could incorporate cross country in the fall and perhaps a wrestling program during the winter season. But for these you need a pretty good size student body."

Three of the other Lutheran schools that Northwest has competed against are Lutheran North (Mount Clemens), Lutheran West (Detroit) and Lutheran East (Harper Woods). All of these schools have enrollments over 500.

Despite a last place finish in every sport the past two years, Lemke is again very optimistic about the future of his sports program.

"Soon we'll be able to hold our own in our league," said Lemke. "We've played some very good games and we're really improving."

"I think the kids are realizing that it takes a while to build a sports program, even though our record hasn't been very good. We're keeping our spirits up."

Rochester hosts women bowlers

By MARTY BUDNER

Professional bowlers from across the country will showcase their talents at Rochester's North Hill Lanes this week.

Beginning today, about 80 bowlers will vie for honors in the \$25,000 Detroit Stroh Light Classic. It's the third straight year the Women's Professional Bowlers Association (WPBA) has stopped at the popular Rochester bowling house, 150 W. Tiencen.

"We're elated for ourselves and for our community that we are once again able to host a national event," said North Hill proprietor Bill Strock. "We were concerned at the beginning whether or not the big names were going to show up — and they are."

"This is considered to be one of the strongest — if not the strongest — fields that we've ever had here in Rochester. We have at least a dozen bowlers from California and Nevada coming in, including defending champion Pam Buckner."

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