

Raider harriers finish last

By TOM BAER

North Farmington's cross country fortunes have been described as "up and down" by Al VanMeter, the team's coach.

Two of the "ups" came at the Schoolcraft Invitational and the state Class A regional. North's Raiders won both meets and qualified for the state finals by topping the regional.

One of the "downs" came last Saturday at the state finals, run over a 5,000-meter course at the IMA Golf Course near Flint. North finished 24th — dead last in the Class A field.

"I guess we weren't ready for the good competition," said VanMeter, an outstanding cross country runner during his high school days at Farmington. "We didn't run as good as I thought we could."

"But you know our team this year — up or down. We just didn't run up to par at state."

Kevin Kangas, a senior, was the first Raider to cross the line. He landed 73rd with a time of 16:40, a best. Teammate Bruce Ross, also a senior, finished 101st in 16:50.

Rich Fruitman, one of the team's best runners, suffered a pulled leg muscle and limped to a 107th-place finish in 16:54. John Winterbottom, another junior, landed four seconds and five places behind Fruitman.

Other North runners and their places: senior Brian Lewis, 116th in 17:00; sophomore Chris Walker, 140th, 17:16; and sophomore Jim Tre-glow, 155th, 17:43.

"THE COURSE certainly wasn't as hard as Cass Benton or some others we've run," Van Meter said. "It had short ups and gradual downs. They had to run across a concrete bridge in their spikes. I didn't think that was too good for a state meet."

Flint Kearsley won the Class A title with 100 points, and Grosse Pointe North was second with 132. Matt Slack of Holly won the race with a time of 15:33.

Farmington Our Lady of Mercy, usually a girls' cross country power under coach Bob Kirkland, didn't qualify its team for the Class A state meet this year.

Instead, Kirkland had to settle for having two girls — juniors Jean McCarthy and Amy Brown — qualify for a special race for runners whose teams have not made the state meet. The race was run last Saturday at the same IMA Golf Course.

Annette Sulick, a Farmington High sophomore, qualified for the same race and finished 47th in 20:24. McCarthy placed 51st in 20:31, and Brown finished 61st in 20:51. The three times represented individual bests for a 5,000-meter course.

Mercy's Kirkland is encouraged about his team's future. "I just can't wait until next year," he said. "That's the old cry, I guess. But these two girls will give me a good foundation to build on."

Brighton High won the Class A girls' title with 85 points, 20 fewer than Clio. Rochester placed third with 157. The top four finishers were Brighton's Pat Hampanian (17:54), Clio's Judy Shumate (18:03), Walled Lake Western's Judy Yuhn (18:08) and Rochester's Lisa Franssen (18:09).



North's John Winterbottom finished 112th in the Class A state meet last Saturday. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Winning recipe!

Harrison gridders get fired up by chowing down with former star

By TOM BAER

What a way for Farmington Harrison's football players to start their drive toward the Pontiac Silverdome — chowing down on spaghetti, courtesy of a former Hawk who has been there before.

Mike Bowden, a bruising tailback on Harrison's 1976 team, was dishing up a little advice and a lot of pasta to the current crop of Hawks last Tuesday at a banquet he hosted at the Roman Terrace, a Farmington Hills restaurant.

Back in 1976, Bowden had two loves — carrying the football for Harrison — which finished a great season by losing the Class A state title in the Silverdome — and cooking, which he pursued in vocation at school.

Now, after three years of classes and a little football at Iowa State University, Bowden's back in Farmington Hills being a chef at the Roman Terrace.

"John Herrington (Harrison's coach) was good to me through out my high school career, and football's been good to me for years," said Bowden. "I glad to be able to put on this little feast for the team, especially since they have a chance to win the title."

Harrison, which won all nine regular-season games to qualify for the Class B playoffs, will meet unbeaten Jackson Lumen Christi in a quarterfinal game at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Riverview High School.

And Lumen Christi, a Catholic school which plays a tough schedule, could pose some problems for the Hawks.

"That's a good fundamental team," said Herrington, who has scouted Lumen Christi twice. "They block and tackle real well."

LUMEN CHRISTI, which closed out its regular season last Saturday with a 38-6 win over Coldwater, averages 210 yards on the ground and 110 in the air, according to head coach Herb Brogan.

Brogan has two talented running backs in Tim

'We're happy to be playing Lumen Christi. They're a top club. They've been rated No. 1. Now we have a chance to prove that we deserve that rating.'

—Coach John Herrington

Schonard (5-foot-11, 175 pounds), who has gained 708 yards, and Kevin Blair (5-foot-7, 165 pounds) who has rushed for 600. Two other running backs are Pat Pressler (5-8, 160) and Andy Solis (6-0, 180).

Lumen Christi has an excellent passer in quarterback Jason Schomer, who has completed 51 of 95 attempts for 907 yards. His favorite receiver is end Mark Conway (6-1, 190), who caught 17 passes for 275 yards this season.

"They'll try to tell you to sleep with their running game, and suddenly they'll take a run and throw a pass," Herrington said. "A lot of people have told me that that's the strongest part of their game. They always seem to have people open."

Lumen Christi has some big defensive players in tackles Steve Skalski (6-3, 215) and Tim Scarpino (6-2, 210), nose guard John Campau (6-0, 195) and linebacker Bill Stark (6-0, 195).

Harrison has become known for its power offense with tailback Ken Kopko leading the charge. Kopko has scored 15 touchdowns and rushed for almost 1,200 yards. Harrison has a strong passing game with quarterback Jim Macielak throwing to split end Reggie Upshaw.

"THAT UPSHAW is as fine a receiver as we've seen all year," said Lumen Christi's Brogan. "We'll have to keep the ball out of his hands or we're in big trouble."

Harrison's offensive line — center John Pesci (5-10, 160), guards Chris Mitterovich (5-9, 145) and Matt Stifter (5-9, 150) and tackles Rich Kouzoujian (5-10, 160) and Eric Wemyss (6-0, 186) — are a bit on the light side, although they've done the job, according to Herrington.

The Harrison defensive standouts are nose guard Don Gully (5-8, 137) and linebackers Bruce Yeager (6-1, 185) and Dan Kehagias (5-11, 180).

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Hawk cagers ripped 76-36

By BRAD EMONS

No, the margin of victory wasn't a surprise on election night as Plymouth Canton blasted Farmington Harrison, 76-36, in a girls' basketball game Tuesday.

It was the Chiefs' 41st consecutive Western Six League win. Canton is now 15-2 overall and 8-0 in league play.

The Chiefs jumped out to a 24-8 first quarter lead and coasted the rest of the way.

Canton, dominated by juniors, used its patented fast break and pressing defense to wear down the Hawks.

FIVE CANTON players hit for double figures.

Chief forward Reggie Ruggiero led all scorers with 16 points. Superstar Pearly Cunningham connected for 15, two coming in the last minute of play when she dribbled the length of the floor, made a nifty behind-the-back move and threw up a two-hand shovel shot off the board.

That play drew the most excitement of the night.

CANTON 76-HARRISON

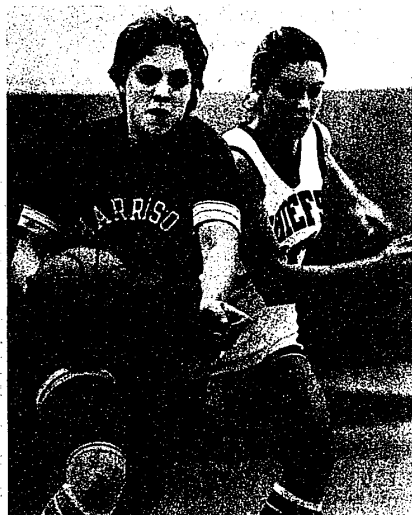
CANTON (Fib) Susie Pierce 4, 0-0, 8; Colleen Crissey 4, 3-5, 11; Cindy Sovine 6, 1-2, 1; Jean Timlin 4, 3-4, 11; Reggie Ruggiero 7, 2-4, 16; Pearly Cunningham 6, 3-4, 15; Sue Gerke 4, 2-3, 10; Joel Somerville 1, 1-2, 3; Robyn Hudgins 1, 0-0, 2; Michelle Wright 0, 0-0, 0 Totals: 30, 16-24, 76.

HARRISON (16): Susie Solomon 1, 3-4, 5; Amy Hixon 0, 2-3, 2; Sue Ferguson 1, 1-3, 2; Andrea Perry 2, 3-4, 7; Lori Wink 2, 6-7, 10; Doyce Churchill 2, 0-0, 4; Lisa Sabbe 1, 1-3, 1; Jenny Tompson 0, 0-0, 0; Ellen Humphrey 0, 0-0, 0; Pam Koutsaki 1, 0-0, 2 Totals: 10, 16-24, 36.

Total Fouls: CANTON 19, HARRISON 19.

Fouled out: Wright (PC).

CANTON 24 13 13 26 —76
HARRISON 8 11 2 15 —36



Harrison's Andrea Parry moves the ball against Plymouth Canton's press. (Staff photo by Gary Caskey)

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