

Thursday, May 12, 1983 O&E



Athletes moms: a special breed

I KNOW IT'S four days after the fact, but I think we can stretch Mother's Day out a little more. After all, for all moms do us, it's the least we can do, don't you think? I never think one day out for dinner, a plant or maybe a corsage is enough anyway. I know it's not enough for my mom, and, although she's special to me, I doubt she's much different than most of the other mothers out there.

There's something about the mother of an athlete that separates her from the rest. Having a son or daughter who competes in sports gives mom added responsibilities and duties — as if she doesn't have enough as it is.

I wasn't the best athlete around. Unless you asked my mom. She'll tell you otherwise.

I've competed in athletics since the summer I became eligible in little league baseball, and I stayed with it until my final at bat in high school. In between there was little league football, junior high football and basketball, and senior high football and baseball.

AND THROUGH it all, mom was there. Even though mom was a pretty decent athlete, she wasn't the one who gave instructions on hitting the cutoff man on throws to second base, driving to my left with a basketball or making a football spiral. That job was performed by dad.

But when it came to encouragement and some of the dirty jobs, those were mom's. And through it all, she was there.

Now, instead of playing sports, I write about them. And guess who reads every inch of the Observer & Eccentric sports pages looking for an article with my name on it? That's mom.

I'd like to share some personal memories of mom's role during my years of athletic competition. Although they are my recollections, I'm sure they'll be very familiar to you.

A MOTHER is someone who . . .

- rides to the park on a bicycle three times a week to watch you play error-plagued little league games.
- doesn't look too agitated when you come home with mud stains on the seat of your pants, a grass stain on one knee and a rip on the other.
- manages to find a way to get the mud and grass stains out of the pants, and mends the tear with a patch that matches.
- always has something cold for you to drink after a rough day on the dusty diamond.
- has something in her bag of surprises which lessens the pain when your game with the first-place Yankees has been postponed to a steady rainfall.
- is always there with the hydrogen peroxide, gauze pads and Band-Aids to clean and dress the scuffed knees and elbows.
- carries you in her arms to the nearest doctor's office after you fell off your bike and opened a gash on your chin.
- tries to break the news gently to dad about how your field-goal attempt accidentally sailed wide right — right through the kitchen window.
- lets you know you have the best looking swing on the team, even though you were called out on strikes four times.
- helps you with your swing by pitching batting practice in the back yard (don't worry dad, it was with a whiffle ball and a plastic bat).
- always has a compliment, even if it's telling parents around her that you have the cleanest uniform on the team.
- makes sure you have the cleanest uniform on the team.
- stays up until all the players on the team who are spending the night are fast asleep, which usually is sometime around 6 a.m.
- has plenty of food and drinks available when you come home unannounced with half the members of your team.
- honors your silly superstitions by fixing your favorite lunch — grilled ham and cheese sandwiches, potato chips and a Coke — on game days, and mending the hole in the big toe of your lucky socks, even though you have a brand new pair in the top drawer.
- sits through the long-winded speakers at the end-of-year banquet, just for the brief second to hear her son's name called when they present the varsity letters.
- wipes the tears from her eyes as her little boy — the kid with the invariably scuffed-up knees and mud-splattered pants — strolls across the football field and accepts his high school diploma.
- in case I forgot to tell you, thanks, mom.

Harrison hurler Kris Witte took the loss in Monday's game against city rival Farmington.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Harrison blasts Central, falls to Falcons

Farmington Harrison pounded out a 20-3 win over Walling Lake Central Tuesday in a game that was halted after five innings because of the mercy rule. Harrison belted out 15 hits and added 11 stolen bases for its second win in nine tries.

Teena Hicks was 3-for-5 with four RBIs, three runs scored and three stolen bases. Chris Ambrose was 3-for-4 with four RBIs, and Karen Sklan added two hits and three runs batted in in support of winning pitcher Michele Vogel.

That was the sting of a tough 7-4 loss to Farmington Monday, which ended on a fine play by Karen Devins after Harrison had loaded the bases.

Farmington overcame a 4-0 deficit, thanks mostly to Mo Twomey. She was the winning pitcher, plus had two hits and two runs scored.

Kris Witte took the loss, despite two hits by her, three by Hicks and two by Dawn Lukomski.

WEST BLOOMFIELD lost twice over the weekend in a tournament in Royal Oak, falling to Chelsea, 12-6, and to Warren Central, 6-0. Richmond defeated Waterford Township in the title game.

Cheryl Blonde took the loss in the first game, despite two hits by Karen Myers. Blonde also took the loss in the second contest, though Jill Krumm and Meredith McDermott had two safeties apiece.

The Lakers and Blonde rebounded Monday against Lake Orion, posting out an 8-6 triumph.

Blonde gave up just five hits and walked six en route to the win, which boosted the Lakers to 3-4 overall and 3-4 in the Greater Oakland Activities League.

Denise Harkrider was 2-for-3 with two RBIs, and Karen Myers had one hit and two RBIs.

ANDOVER took it on the chin Monday in a 22-3 hammer-

ing by Hazel Park. Kelly Jones was 2-for-3 and scored both runs, and losing pitcher Shelly Lawrence allowed the respectable total of eight hits, but had defense was the difference.

KIM KERSTEN picked up a loss and a win for Southfield-Lathrup, beating Rochester Adams by a 16-14 score Friday, then falling to Troy Athens Monday, 10-9.

Kersten survived eight hits and 11 walks against Adams, thanks to big days by Lisa Smith and Karen Hunt. Smith had four runs batted in and Hunt scored four times.

Kersten pitched better Monday, but shaky defense let her down. She struck out eight and walked three while giving up six hits and just three earned runs. But seven of the unearned variety sent her to her fourth loss in 10 decisions.

Athens, who got four innings of winning relief pitching by Diane Furey, went to 7-4 overall and 4-1 in the Metro Suburban. The Chargers fell to 8-4 and 3-2.

Short and Runk Hawks spunk give

Alice Short and Lauri Runk together had a hand in eight winning events Tuesday to help the Farmington Harrison girls' track team defeat Livonia Franklin, 76-47.

Short set a school record in the 100-meter relay (1:52), and also won the discus (122-7), shot put (43-3) and led off the winning 400 relay (53.0) with Jill Birsa, Marlene Sanders and Carla Primo.

Runk literally had a field day as she won the high jump (4-9), long jump (15-6), mile (5:44.4) and two mile (12:53.0). Primo won the 100 (13.2), Jamie Holcomb was first in the 300 hurdles (50.7) and the mile (6:44.4). Teammate Sharon Shiffra was first in the long jump (15-4) and 100 hurdles (17.6), while Kim Mandell won the 200 (28.3) and 400 (1:15.5).

Mary Manderville was first in the shot put (39-1), Linda Shaw won the 100 (13.7) and Erni Yoshida was first in the 320 (1:23.0).

Karen Horner was a double-winner for Groves as she won the 800 (2:39.0) and the mile (6:42.0).

The Raiders are home against Livonia Franklin today.

NORTH FARMINGTON notched its sixth win against two losses Tuesday when the Raiders dumped Birmingham Groves, 89-34.

Marcia Thompson won three events in leading the Raiders. She was first in the discus (98-3), 300 hurdles (51.6) and high jump (6-4). Teammate Sharon Shiffra was first in the long jump (15-4) and 100 hurdles (17.6), while Kim Mandell won the 200 (28.3) and 400 (1:15.5).

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FARMINGTON HIGH fell to 3-5 overall Tuesday when the Falcons were dropped by Plymouth Salem, 69-54.

Amnette Sulick was a double-winner as she clocked in at 5:12.1 in the mile and 13:52 in the two mile.

Lisa Easton, Rhonda Lancaster, Tracy Hale and Karen Runyan teamed to win the 440 relay (3:38.4). Lancaster was first in the 300 hurdles with a school record time of 50.8.

Lisa Easton won the 100 (17.4) and Beth Sherman was first in the discus (117-4).

IN BOYS' ACTION, North Farmington improved its record to 9-3 Tuesday as the Raiders' dumped non-league foe Birmingham Groves, 71-47.

Brian Hood and Chris Walker were double winners for North, while Craig

Compton and Chuck Loughery turned the trick for Groves.

Hood won the shot put (43-9) and discus (131-3), while Walker won the mile (4:36.0) and two mile (10:02.0).

Compton was first for Groves in the high jump (6-5 1/2) and long jump (20-6 1/2), and teammate Loughery was first in the 400 (1:15.5) and 200 (23.4).

North Farmington picked up first from Bob Loeffler (39.1), the 400 relay team (4:58) and the 800 relay team (2:05.0).

Groves other wins came from Glen Drotzler in the 110 high hurdles (16.3), Mike Kolody in the 100 (11.8), Brian Hilschcock in the pole vault (9-6), and the 1,600 relay (5:35.6).

North continues action in the Northwest Suburban League today at Livonia Franklin.

FARMINGTON needed a win in the last event of the day — the high jump — and that's what it got when John Clappinson went 6-2 to win the event and the meet. The Falcons went on to defeat Plymouth Salem, 67-45.

Pete Brown was the only double winner, tossing the shot 52-7 and the discus 155-11. He shared the spotlight with a pair of freshmen — Bruce Kraft won the mile in 4:43.5 and Doug Jenkins in the half mile (2:35.4).

Other winners for Farmington were Brian Loefer in the 440 dash (54.1), the mile relay team (3:41), Erik Higley in the 400 (1:16.0) and high jump (6-0).

The 400 relay team finished in 4:16, the 800 went 1:31.65, and the mile team was timed in 3:24.9.

Jerome Grace was first in the long jump (30-7 1/2). Tim Davis won the discus (144-0) and Bill Carney won the pole vault (11-0).

Erik Witsberg was a double winner for the Maple with a 4:37.39 in the mile and a 9:43.47 in the 2 mile.

John Mast won the 100 (16.7) and Kurt Mills was first in the shot put (46-1).

Now's the time to start thinking about saving on this year's taxes.

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WB hosts tourney

The West Bloomfield softball Invitational will take place Saturday at West Bloomfield High School.

The four-team tournament gets underway with two games at 11 a.m. The host Lakers will take on Farmington Central in the first game, and Farmington Central will take on the host Lakers in the second game.

The championship game will take place shortly after the semi-final games are completed.