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RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Energetic Erik

Farmington's Erik Higley is one of the top hurdlers in the Observer & Eccentric coverage area.

North Farmington track teams fly past Franklin

North Farmington was tough on Livonia Franklin Thursday, as its women raced to a 65-58 win and the boys prevailed easily, 79-52. Marcia Thompson won the discus with a toss of 97 feet, four inches and took another first when she soared 5-3 in the high jump. Sue Hedfield also had a pair of wins, clocking a time of 15.7 seconds in the 100-meter low hurdles and a 48 flat in the 300 lows.

Sara Cline won the 1,600-meter run (5:32); Laina Shaw captured the long jump (14-9 1/4); Mary Manderfield took the shot put (31-7); and Kim Mandell won the 400 (1:04.9) as the Raiders pushed their overall record to 6-1 and their Northwest Suburban League mark to 4-0.

The boys were paced by three double winners as they improved their overall record to 7-2 and their league mark to 3-1. Chris Walker won the 1,600 in 4:38.9 and the 3,200 in 10:16; Brian Hood won the shot with a heave of 44-4 and the discus with a throw of 123-10; and Eric Collier took the long jump (19-8) and the 400-meter run (53.1).

Collier also ran the anchor on the victorious 1,600-meter relay squad, which turned in a 3:32.8. Joining him in the relay were Eric Zuckerman, Mike Mancini and Bob Loeffler.

FARMINGTON HARRISON split with Plymouth Canton Thursday, as the girls chalked up an 81-42 victory to avenge the boys' 84-48 loss.

Alice Short, as usual, was one of the girls' stars, and, also as usual, Lauri Runk was the other. Short threw the discus 125-4 and the shot 41-6 for a pair of firsts, turned in a 15.4 clocking in the 100-yard low hurdles for a third, then ran a leg of the 400 relay for a fourth. Runk took the long jump with a leap of 15 feet, seven inches, then won the mile (5:36) and the two-mile (13:14).

Jill Strass, Marcine Sanders, Carla Primo and Carole Kopko each ran on two winning relay teams.

The girls are 4-1 overall and 3-1 in the league.

The boys, meanwhile, fell to 1-3 and 1-2 despite running at home. Kevin Mitchell managed to corral the high jump with a leap of 5-9; Don Lacey won the 800 in 2:10.6; Jerry Holcomb, Andy Moran, Eric Gayer and Mike Rosenau teamed to win the 800 relay in 1:35.9; and Gayer, Moran, John Sepetya and Dave Dickson won the 440 relay in 45.9.

SOUTHFIELD'S boys and girls were impressive against Ferndale Thursday. The undefeated boys (7-0 overall, 6-0 in the SMA) romped to a 97-35 triumph, and the girls (4-1, 3-1) cruised as well, 89-34.

It was familiar names and faces who did it for the boys. Glenn Williams won the 110-meter high hurdles (14.6) and the 300 lows (38.2); Terrence Robinson won the 100 (10.9) and 200 (22.5); and Jim Davis captured the discus (140-11) and the shot (45-1 1/4).

Single winners were Jerome Green in the long jump (21-2), Reggie Anderson in the 400 (51.8), Eric Euyedy in the 800 (2:06.1) and Chris Key in the high jump (6-0). The Blue Jays won all three relays.

The girls were nearly as tough. Sonja Williams, Javay Williamson, Katise Long and

Diedra Cheeks teamed to win the 400 relay (2:53) and the 800 relay (1:49.84), and Long was part of the 1,600 relay as well. Cheeks also won the 100 in 12.88. Chris Stabile, who ran a leg of the 1,600, won the 800 in 2:33.6; and Cicile Baker, another member of the 1,600 squad, took the 400 in 1:04.1.

SOUTHFIELD-LATHRUP'S boys took it on the chin Thursday at Royal Oak Dendero, falling by 111-21. John Gietlow was the only winner for Lathrup, taking the two-mile run in 10:44.

But the girls pulled off an 80-44 victory over Dendero to up their overall mark to 2-4 and their league record to 2-2. Lisa Van-Buskirk was a big gun, winning the shot put (35-6) and the discus (99-0). Laura Book chipped in with a win in the 400 dash (1:07.7) and ran a leg of the victorious 800 relay and the winning mile relay.

Karen Flory starred as well, taking the mile in 5:31 and the half-mile in 2:39.8, and Lorri Carithers won the 100 (11.92), the 200 (28.8) and ran a leg of the 800 relay. Colleen Betts took the high jump (4-8) and also ran a leg of the 800.

Keller hero in Falcon win

Farmington's Chris Keller knocked in the winning run in the seventh inning enabling the Falcons to slip past Livonia Churchill on Wednesday, 5-4.

Joe Wenson led Farmington with three hits. Keller, the starting pitcher, added two hits from his lead-off position.

Dave Casserole picked up the win in relief for the Falcons, who hiked their record to 5-5 overall.

CRANBROOK'S Allan Daniels struck out six and walked three in leading the Cranes past Oxford in a North Oakland Activities Conference (NOAC) game, 7-2, in the first game of a double-header on Wednesday.

The Cranes won the second game in five innings, 6-5.

Jeff White, just coming off a knee injury, had three hits and two RBI in the opening game. Jon Doehr and Richard Vile each had two hits.

Roger Penningdorf scored the winning run in the second game on a fourth-inning sacrifice fly by White. Richard Haggerty, who retired seven of the last eight batters in a fine relief performance, was the winning pitcher.

Cranbrook hosts Lahser tomorrow and plays a twin bill Wednesday at Ortonville against Brandon.

Darlene's on a roll, thanks to teamwork

Independent, but not alone

By Tom Henderson
staff writer

The wheelchair bounced and skidded through the gravel parking lot. The gravel and dirt, when wet, had been formed by car tires into ruts that had hardened into a concrete-like series of barriers. The chair lurched and tilted as Darlene Quinlan kept pushing herself along. "I wish they'd pave this thing," she said.

Her husband, Terry, carrying the poles and heavy, bulging bag, followed

behind her by 20 or 30 yards. "Just a minute, honey, I'll help you." As he looked for a place to set down his bag, she kept rolling, across the parking lot and into the thick, wet grass of the West Bloomfield park, which slowed her even more.

"I'll help you with that, hon," Terry hollered out again. She continued to fight her way through the grass till she found a spot to suit her. "If you haven't been able to tell by now, gentlemen," said Terry to the writer and photographer, "she's very independent."

TERRY DUMPED out part of the contents of the bulging bag. Three six-pound lead shots and three discuses fell heavily into the soggy turf. Terry, with the good legs, wasn't the one who would use them. Darlene, with legs left useless and withered by a car accident when she was eight, is the athlete of the family.

Darlene Quinlan, 32, is one of the most famous wheelchair athletes in the world. An international competitor in swimming or track and field since 1967, she was Michigan's Sportsman of the Year in 1974 and was inducted at the tender age of 30 into the National Wheelchair Hall of Fame. She is the only woman member of the famed Westland Sparks wheelchair basketball team, and last season became the first woman ever to play in and score during the national basketball championship.

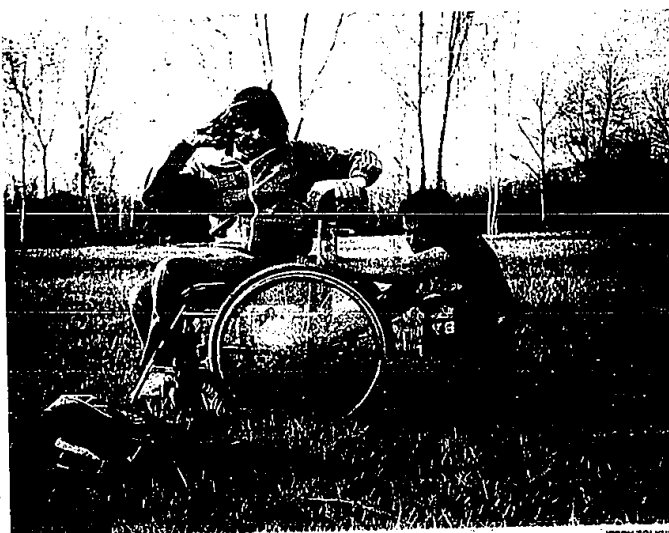
But it's track and field that has her attention, now. With the 16th-annual Michigan Wheelchair Games beginning Thursday at the Macomb County Community College, and the national championships in Hawaii in June, it's time to work.

And so she rocks back and forth in her chair and lets the javelin fly again and again. And so she squirms for leverage and gruntingly tosses the shot. And so she grips the well-worn discuses and lets them fly with an oomph.

Terry is there for more than emotional support. Tossing a shot or a discus from a wheelchair is ungainly. There are no track spikes for wheels. Traction is missing. The chair wants to lift up in opposition to the force of the throw, or at least spin a bit on its axis. Both are disastrous to distance, and that's where Terry comes in.

As Darlene squirms with the shot, or cradles the discus, or rocks back and forth before heaving the javelin, Terry is scurried down under the wheelchair, bracing it with all his might, arms bulging, flesh turning red, grunts of his own to match his wife's. He retreats for her, too, and then settles back under the chair to brace it for another round. The grass is swampy from recent rainfall. Terry's jeans are soaked.

DARLENE BEGAN competing in 1967, nine years after her crippling injury. "Until then, I more or less let myself down," she said. "I didn't chal-



JERRY ZOLYNSKY

While husband Terry holds down the wheelchair, Darlene Quinlan sets herself as she practices the shot put event. Quinlan, who also excels in the

discus and javelin throw, uses a six-pound shot put.

lenge myself, probably because others didn't expect me to."

People expect things from her now. She has participated in four Wheelchair Olympics — in Israel in '68, West Germany in '73, Toronto in '76 and Holland in '80. She gets better with age — she only took one gold medal in '68, in swimming, but captured four gold medals in the most recent games.

And she has been setting personal records since then, gearing up for the '84 games in Champagne, Illinois. (She does the 100-yard dash in 23 seconds and tosses the shot 12 1/2 feet; the discus 50 and the javelin 42.)

It didn't all come easy, though. When she tried out for the Sparks basketball team, the men made it clear she wasn't welcome. "The first year was really the hardest," she said. "They were beating

the ball at me, trying to make me miss it, to make me look bad."

THEY DON'T HAVE wheelchairs in fairy tales, but that didn't stop her from having a fairy-tale romance, and a relationship that gives her a shot at living happily ever after. "I had been coaching (Karen) Johnstone, a physical therapist at Beaumont hospital, and we stopped for a Dairy Queen on the way home. My little brother was in the car. Terry came over to talk. He didn't even know I was handicapped."

They have been married 13 years, now and have lived in their modest, but immaculate West Bloomfield home for three. Terry works in the bump shop of Alan Ford in Bloomfield Hills.

"I think of all I've done," said Darlene with a smile. "I've accomplished a lot, traveled all over the world, made a lot of friends. It takes a lot of time, practice, hard work, but it gives me a sense of accomplishment. I've done something with my life, and I've inspired some other athletes to get out and do something, instead of sitting around and watching their lives go by."

(Though various agencies pick up much of her expenses when she competes internationally, Quinlan expects to spend at least \$400 of her own money to make the nationals in Hawaii, a requirement for competing in the '84 Olympics. She has sent out 25 letters to area businesses asking for sponsorship; she has one answer and \$50 to show for her efforts. Anyone interested in helping her go to Hawaii in June may call her at 661-5144.)



Darlene Quinlan proudly displays her awards which she gathered during international track and field and swimming competition.