

Sports

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Borgess wins Observer Relay title

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

It was a fitting conclusion to a most exciting track and field meet.

Bishop Borgess' Fred Owens, the man who had earlier set an Observerland Relays record with a swift 10.6 in the 100-meter dash and anchored two other first-place relays, brought home the baton before anyone else in the final event, the 1,600-meter relay.

As Owens crossed the finish line, Borgess began celebrating its first-ever Observerland Relays championship.

Borgess won nine of the 18 events, set three records and tied another capturing 109 points in the 14th annual running of the relays, which took place Saturday at Livonia Churchill.

Churchill placed second with 84 points and Plymouth Salem finished a somewhat surprising third with 61 points. Farmington, missing two key performers, placed fourth (45) and Catholic Central (41) placed fifth.

"WINNING THIS MEET has been a goal of ours for a long time," said Spartan coach Gene Grewe. "This is a very strong team, but we've had strong teams in the past and haven't been able to win this. It's really terrific for the kids that we won. I know they really wanted it."

For a while, though, it looked like the heavily favored Spartans would again come up short at Observerland.

Churchill, thanks to the strong arm of Dave Mize, got off well in the field events and grabbed a quick lead. Mize had the best tosses in both the shot put (52-54) and in the discus (159-11).

Churchill took first in the discus and pole vault, second in the shot put and third in the long jump to bolt ahead. The Chargers maintained that lead until the 12th event.

"I really felt good about our chances going into the final four events," Grewe said. "I knew we had a good chance of scoring a lot of points as long as we didn't drop the baton."

They didn't drop the baton, but they did drop Churchill out of contention. The Spartans took first in each of the last four events.

WITH THE MEET being held on Churchill's all-weather track for the first time (the 13 previous relays were held on Redford Union's cinder track), times were bound to improve — and they did.

Borgess set a long jump record with a combined jump of 62-64, breaking the old mark of 62-4 set in 1980 by Farmington. Borgess also established a new 800-meter relay mark going 1:30.7. The old mark was 1:30.5 (converted from 1:31.3) set in 1975 by Redford Union.

Owens' 10.6 in the 100 dash shattered the old mark of 11.2 held by four runners. The Spartans also tied the 400 relay record with a 44.0.

Despite his team's second-place finish, Churchill coach Fred Price was ecstatic.

"Second isn't the best, but it's an achievement and as big a victory as some we've won," said Price. "These teams have won the relays six times. 'We had no disappointments. I told them, 'Let's make them (Borgess) win it.' Borgess ran up to his potential and Gene (Grewe) is to be commended."

Plymouth Salem coach Gary Balconi was another happy coach after the meet.

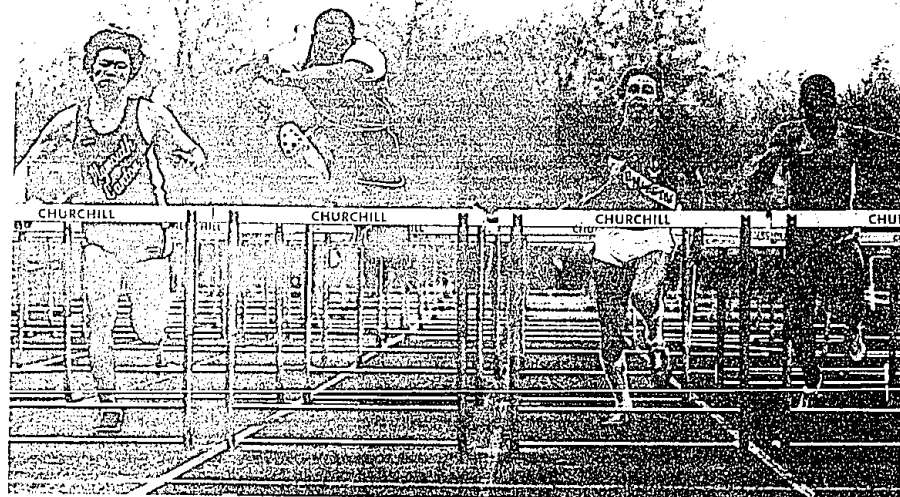
"What do you have to say about the underdogs?" he wanted to know. "His team wasn't expected to be a factor in the meet, but wound up earning points in all but one event."

"EVERYONE RAN their best times," Balconi said. "What else can you ask of them? I'm very pleased with our performance. Next to Borgess, we had the best sprint team here."

Besides the team excitement, the meet produced moments of individual brilliance. Owens was superb in all four of his events, blowing by everyone. Dave Homann and Jeff Felts gave the Garden City faithful something to cheer about. Felts high jumped 6-0 and bested Churchill's Mike Meehan on lower misses. Homann took the 1,600 run in a swift 4:24.3.

Livonia Stevenson, despite being seriously out-manned, gutted out a sixth-place finish. Ken Dubois anchored two first-place relays for Stevenson, the distance medley and the 3,200 relay. Farmington's Brian Looser went 12-6 to win the pole vault — perhaps the lone Falcon bright spot.

But when it was all said and done, and the final score was tallied, the Relays belonged to Bishop Borgess.



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Story of the day: Everybody trying to catch the Borgess runners. In this case, the event was the 110-meter high hurdles, and the runners were trying to catch Borgess' Chuck Gregory (second from

left). From left are Jin Kim from Canton, Gregory, Greg Copiel from Farmington and Mike White from Salem.

track

14TH ANNUAL
OBSERVERLAND RELAYS
Saturday at Livonia Churchill

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Redford Bishop Borgess, 109 points; 2. Livonia Stevenson, 84; 3. Plymouth Salem, 61; 4. Farmington, 45; 5. Redford Catholic Central, 41; 6. Livonia Stevenson, 35; 7. Garden City, 24; 8. Northville, 20; 9. Plymouth Canton, 16; 10. Southfield-Lathrup, 10; 11. Livonia Bentley, 14; 12. Livonia Franklin, 11; 13. Farmington Horizon, 7; 14. Redford Union, 4; 15. North Farmington, 3.

FINAL RELAY RESULTS

Shot put: 1. Borgess (Rzepka, Walton and Hordswell), 144 feet, 0 1/2 inches; 2. Churchill, 137-10 1/2; 3. Farmington, 126-3 1/2; 4. Stevenson, 125-8 1/2; 5. N. Farmington, 125-1 1/2; 6. Salem, 124-0.

Long jump: 1. Borgess (Cates, Albright and Hanks), 62-64 (meet record); 2. Salem, 61-1 1/2; 3. Churchill, 57-0 1/2; 4. Harrison, 57-4 1/2; 5. Catholic Central, 56-8; 6. Franklin, 55-4 1/2.

High jump: 1. Garden City (Moynihan, Waddington and Felt), 19-0; 2. Churchill, 17-8; 3. (tie)

Farmington and Catholic Central, 17-4 each; 5. Salem, 10-10; 6. Stevenson, 10-6.

Pole vault: 1. Churchill (Jones, Hosier and Brophy), 33-6; 2. Salem, 33-0; 3. Farmington, 32-6; 4. Bentley, 32-6; 5. Harrison, 31-6; 6. Borgess, 23-0.

Discus: 1. Churchill (Nelson, Richards and Mize), 424-8; 2. Borgess, 393-0; 3. Stevenson, 371-5; 4. Farmington, 368-11; 5. Salem, 368-0; 6. Catholic Central, 363-0.

800-meter: 1. Churchill (Schwartz, Sinclair, Poulos and Mize), 18:22.0; 2. Catholic Central, 18:31.9; 3. Bentley, 19:02.7; 4. Franklin, 19:15.4; 5. Farmington, 19:34.8; 6. Salem, 19:44.0.

Distance medley: 1. Stevenson (MacIntyre, Hartsfield, Pence and Dubois), 10:37.0; 2. Northville, 11:07.4; 3. Catholic Central, 11:09.5; 4. Borgess, 11:24.2; 5. Farmington, 11:25.9; 6. Salem, 11:29.2.

3,200-meter: 1. Stevenson (MacIntyre, Donkason, Pence and Dubois), 8:09.7; 2. Churchill, 8:13.1; 3. Borgess, 8:14.0; 4. Redford Union, 8:23.0; 5. Garden City, 8:31.1; 6. Salem, 8:31.8.

800-meter: 1. Borgess (Gregory, Marion Pittman, Montgomery, Pacheco and Owens), 44.0 (meet record); 2. Salem, 44.7; 3. Canton, 44.9; 4. Catholic Central, 45.4; 5. Lathrup, 45.6; 6. N. Farmington, 45.7.

1,600-meter: 1. Borgess (Hanks, Cotman, Elledge and Owens), 3:30.2; 2. Salem, 3:32.2; 3. Churchill, 3:34.6; 4. Redford Union, 3:34.8; 5. Stevenson, 3:35.0; 6. Bentley, 3:37.0.

400-meter: 1. Borgess (Marion Pittman, Montgomery, Pacheco and Owens), 44.0 (meet record); 2. Salem, 44.7; 3. Canton, 44.9; 4. Catholic Central, 45.4; 5. Lathrup, 45.6; 6. N. Farmington, 45.7.

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Open 100 dash: 1. Fred Owens (Borgess), 10.6 (meet record); 2. Chuck Phelps (Lathrup), 11.2; 3. Eliah Rogers (Canton), 11.46; 4. Dave Nagy (Catholic Central), 11.5; 5. Brian Neuhardt (Salem), 11.6; 6. Mike Rosenau (Harrison), 11.65.

FIELD EVENT WINNERS

Shot put: 1. Dave Mize (Churchill), 52-54; Discus: 1. Dave Mize (Churchill), 159-11; Long jump: 1. Tim Hanks (Borgess), 21-5; High jump: 1. Jeff Felts (Garden City), 6-0 (lower misses).

Pole vault: 1. Brian Looser (Farmington), 12-6 (lower misses).

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

110-meter hurdles: 1. Chuck Gregory (Bor-

gess), 15.2; 2. Dave Kroth (Northville), 15.3; 3. Jin Kim (Canton), 15.54; 4. Greg Copiel (Farmington), 15.6; 5. Dave Lee (Garden City), 15.9; 6. Mike White (Salem), 16.2.

Open 1,600 run: 1. Dave Homann (Garden City), 4:24.3; 2. Paul Schwartz (Churchill), 4:24.3; 3. Steve Shaver (Catholic Central), 4:25.0; 4. Gerry McDougall (Franklin), 4:27.5; 5. Mark Delord (Lathrup), 4:30.7; 6. Kevin Earl (Bentley), 4:34.0.

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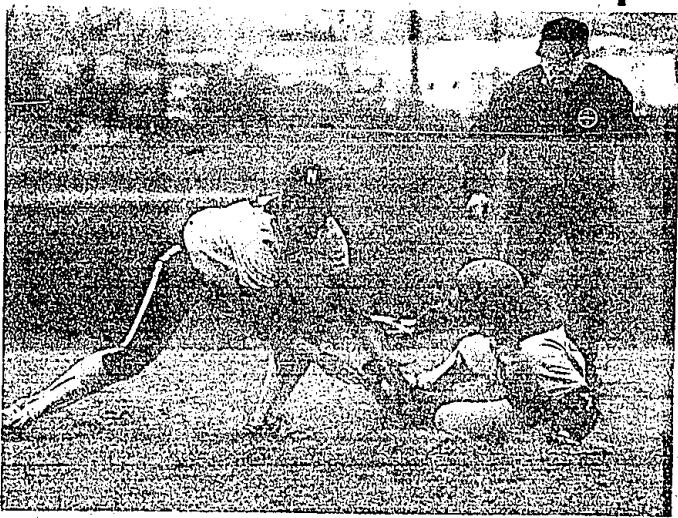
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Farmington's Greg Feenstra helped his team to a fifth-place in the 800-meter relay.

Hawks climb to top of Western Division

North Farmington can't shake Glenn's mystical jinx, lose 12-1



ART EMANUEL/staff photographer

North's Amy Austin tries to put the tag on stealing Carol Hall in the Raiders' 12-1 loss to John Glenn Friday. Glenn has won two league games

this season, both wins came at the expense of the Raiders.

One win was well-played, the other wasn't, but Farmington Harrison softball coach Mike Teachman will take them both as the Hawks suddenly find themselves perched atop the Western Lakes Western Division with a 4-1 record.

The Hawks were masterful defeating previously unbeaten Walsted Lake Central 2-1 on Wednesday. They were sloppy-but-dramatic in their 7-6 win against Plymouth Canton Friday.

Michelle Vogt tamed a hard-hitting Central team on just five hits, four were of the bloop variety. She walked only one and fanned four.

"This was the best game a softball team of mine has ever played," said Teachman. "We played a solid defensive game."

The Hawks scored a run in the second on Colette Cashin's single after Central had walked the bases full.

After Central tied it in the third, Harrison got the eventual game-winner on a walk to Vogt, a perfectly executed bunt and run by Sandy Turquist which sent Vogt to third, and a bad throw on the play allowed Vogt to score.

Vogt shut the door on Central the rest of the way. Central's record fell to 6-1.

softball

The defense failed Harrison on Friday as Canton took advantage of four Hawk errors and scored six unearned runs.

Canton led 6-3 as Harrison came up for their final turn at bat. Walks loaded the bases with two outs, and Cashin delivered a clutch two-run double to make it 6-5.

Karen Sklar then lifted a fly to right, and the game appeared over. The Canton outfielder, however, dropped the fly, allowing the tying and winning runs to cross the plate.

Sklar went 3-for-4 with a home run and three RBI to pace the Hawks. Cashin, a junior catcher, went 3-for-4.

NORTH FARMINGTON failed again to break the John Glenn jinx. Glenn, for the second time this season, grabbed the Raiders 12-1.

"They've got our number," said Raiders coach Dennis Mikal. "They always

seem to play us tough. We were never really in the game."

The Raiders' record falls to 3-3 in the Northwest Suburban League, 4-3 overall. Glenn is 2-3 in the league.

Mo Paradisi's fourth-inning double scored Fatti Kozicki for the Raiders' lone run. They could manage just four hits off Glenn's Kathy Garrett.

Suzette Greenberg suffered the loss for North.

FARMINGTON'S seventh-inning rally fell short Wednesday as Livonia Churchill hung on to win 8-4.

Cathy Flear had three hits and Karen Devine two to pace the Falcons' 10-hit attack.

Churchill carried a 6-3 lead into the seventh, but Farmington talked three times and had runners ahead when the final out was made.

The Falcons stranded 16 runners on base.

The Falcons are now 3-4 on the season.