

Ex-Falcon flyer guns for MAC title

By C.J. Rieck
staff writer

In 1976, Craig Kielty was an impressionable teenager. One guy that impressed him a lot was Bruce Jenner.

It was in '76 that Jenner, raced, jumped, vaulted, hurdled, and heaved his way to a gold medal in the decathlon, at the Montreal Olympics. Kielty always remembered the decathlon. To him it "looked interesting." It was something he liked to try.

That dream reached reality. Kielty, now a sophomore at Central Michigan, is a favorite to win the Mid-American Conference (MAC) decathlon title May 17-19 at Kent State. And should he manage to score about 230 points higher than his best effort thus far, he'll be off to the NCAA meet May 30.

WINNING THE MAC title is one goal for Kielty, who graduated from Farmington. But it isn't the most immediate.

"I have two more years to win the MAC," he said. "Right now, the biggest goal I have is to make the finals."

"My goal at the beginning of the year was to qualify for the Olympic Trials, but after my ankle injuries I had to readjust those goals."

Indeed, Kielty might be concentrating on the NCAA meet and the Olympic trials if not for a series of costly injuries.

After a successful first season in the decathlon — as a CMU freshman he qualified for the Junior Nationals, finishing 11th in only his third decathlon competition — he dislocated his shoulder last year while pole vaulting and missed the entire season.

WAS REINTEGRATED, thus saving his eligibility, but this year started off where the last one ended. Kielty twisted his left ankle in the team's indoor track meet last November, then sprained his right ankle in CMU's first indoor meet against Ferris State a month later.

track

"Those two ankle injuries set me back a couple of months," he said. "Notably, Kielty's second injury, dislocated during an event in the decathlon. He was competing in the triple jump. Such all-around ability comes naturally to him. At Farmington, he "did quite a few things: the high jump, long jump, threw the discus. I did just about anything I could."

"The only thing I didn't do was the pole vault and high hurdles." These remain perhaps his weakest entries of the 10. The decathlon is a grueling, two-day affair, featuring (in order) the 100-meter dash, long jump, shot put, high jump and 400 run on the first day, and the 110 high hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin and 1,500 run on the second.

"THE POLE VAULT may be one of his weakest events," said CMU assistant coach Craig Fuller. He cleared 12-0 at the Drake Relays, and if he could get over 13, he could score a lot of points. It's an area he could gain a lot of points."

Kielty has done better than 14-feet in practice but not in a meet. He has also high jumped 6-9 and long jumped 13-1/2. And he has a team-best throw of 229-0 in the javelin, not too far off the NCAA qualifying standard.

"If he put all his past efforts into the decathlon, he'd qualify for the NCAA easily," said Fuller. That, of course, is what separates decathletes from athletes — their ability to turn in strong performances in event after event. Kielty is adapting well to it, but it takes time.

"I'm just getting used to the 400," he admitted. "That pole vault is coming along pretty good. There's a lot of room for improvement, but I'm getting a fair amount of points."

WITH THE MAC meet a week away, Kielty is no longer trying to build up for the strength and endurance events.

"It's too late to increase strength, so the only thing I can really do is get my speed, work in, get my quickness down," he said. "I haven't worked on that too much. I've got to improve my hurdles."

Should Kielty miss the NCAA qualifying total — his current best is 7,194 points, the NCAA standard is 7,450 — at the MAC meet, he'll get the next shot May 25-26 at the Central Collegiate Conference championships at Northwestern University. That's something he wants to avoid, if possible.



Craig Kielty
decathlon master

Orsini fires 3-hitter to snap Harrison out of doldrums

A Western Lakes conference victory had eluded Farmington Harrison for the first four weeks of the season.

But, thanks to the superb three-hit pitching of Steve Orsini and some timely hitting of D.J. Murry, the Hawks broke out of their slide by whipping Northville 7-3 Monday.

Orsini, 2-0 on the season, walked six and struck out five. After giving up two runs in a shaky first inning, Orsini really shut the door on the Mustangs the rest of the way.

Harrison scored four times in their half of the first, the big blow being Murry's three-run home run. Murry also ripped a double in the game.

"We've been real inconsistent," said Harrison coach John Herrington. "We

played a real poor game against Bentley last week and then a bad first inning against Canton on Friday. But, we're starting to get a lot better up the middle. Brian Smolinski (sophomore shortstop) is starting to make some key plays for us. Hopefully, we'll be alright."

Pitcher Bob Waszczenik took the mound against his former teammates Friday — Plymouth Canton — and the Chiefs greeted him with six first-inning runs en route to an 11-7 win. The Chiefs led at one point 10-0 before Harrison made its run.

The Hawks are now 3-5 on the season, 1-4 in the league. They face a grueling seven-game, five-days schedule the rest of this week.

NORTH FARMINGTON is now 1-4 in the Northwest Suburban League, two games behind league leader Garden City, following the Raiders 2-1 loss to the Cougars Monday.

Garden City hurler Mike Roffi outdueled North's Scott Draper. Roffi (5-1) pitched 1.5 innings and allowed just four hits. Draper struck out five and allowed six hits.

North's only run came in the bottom of the fifth on an RBI single by Mark Carrier. Garden City wasn't without a bit of luck. It scored the eventual game-winner in the fourth on a walk, a single and two "swinging-bunt" infield singles.

FARMINGTON'S record dropped to

1-3 as Lincoln Bentley tripped the Falcons 3-0 Monday. Dave Casaroli, who pitched Farmington to its first victory last Wednesday, absorbed the loss.

Dan Zang and Mike Behrend stroked

a pair of hits each to lead the Falcons. Home runs by Bentley sluggers Steve LaFave and Al Young, plus a 4-for-4 performance from John Walsh, led the Bulldogs charge.

baseball

Tiger answers

Following are the answers to questions from Marty Budner's column on "Fifty Years with the Tigers."

1. Ted Williams, 1939;
2. The Goodfellow football game, for Catholic Central High School; 3. George Kell; 4. Earl Wilson (1956) and Dixie Trout (1949-1950); 5. Rocky Colavito, the 1959 American League home run champion.
6. Steve Barber and Stu Miller, Baltimore, 2-1; 7. Mickey Cochrane (1934), Hank Greenberg (1935) and Charlie Gehringer (1937); 8. John 15, 1948 against the Philadelphia A's; 9. Hank Greenberg (first base 1945 and left field 1940); 10. Ty Cobb.
11. 1960; 12. Oakland's Bert (Campy) Campaneris threw at Detroit's Len Laitner, 13. Ed Farmer, 14. Rusty Staub, Ron LeFlore and Mark Fidrych; 15. Detroit traded Denny McLain, Don Wertz, Elliott Maddox and Norm McFay to Washington for Eddie Brinkman, Joe Coleman, Aurelio Rodriguez and Jim Hannan.

call in scores

Attention: area athletic coaches, both college and high school. To ensure the scores of your games and meets get into the paper, please phone in your results. For your convenience, the Observer sports staff is on hand Tuesday, Thursday and Friday nights to take your calls. The Observer sports staff line numbers are 591-3312 and 591-3305. To reach us during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., call 591-3300.

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