

Sports

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classified inside



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(F10)

Northville ousts Mercy

Plymouth Canton soccer coach Mike Morgan said it two weeks ago.

"Don't be surprised if Northville makes it to the state finals," he said after the Mustangs knocked his team out of contention.

The next to utter those words was Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy coach Gene Fogel.

Last Wednesday, Northville beat Mercy 3-1 to advance to the state semifinals.

"Northville is the best team we've played all year," Fogel said. "They've got a good scorer and they are strong up the middle."

The Mustangs jumped all over Mercy in the first 15 minutes of the match.

Northville's first goal was set up by a pretty play by Lisa Cahill. She finessed the ball to Sue Barthwick who

buried it past Mercy goalie Betsy Eads.

FOUR MINUTES later, it was 2-0. A Northville corner kick hit freakishly and a Mercy defender in front of the net and caromed in.

"We were really nervous," Fogel said. "I think the fact that we were a first-year team really showed. Northville has been in a playoff situation before. They were lost and played their game. We were tight. Our lack of experience showed."

But, Fogel said, his Marlins loosened and began playing their game after the Mustangs went up by two. Unfortunately, too much damage had already taken place.

"We really took it to Northville the last half of the first half," Fogel said.

soccer

"The girls finally started to play soccer."

The Mustang goalie was equal to the challenge, however, and made several key saves to keep Mercy off the scoreboard the rest of the half. Mercy's Annette Ruggiero had the best scoring chance. She banged one off the crossbar from short range.

The second half began with Mercy still carrying the play. But Cahill broke free and beat Eads to put Northville up 3-0.

Mercy finally got on the board as Amy DeMatteis headed in a perfect cor-

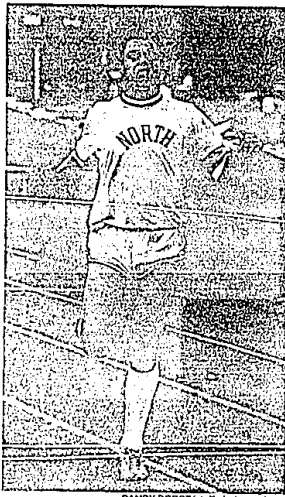
ner kick from Ruggiero. That was the last of the scoring.

THE LOSS was Mercy's first in 12 games. It was made especially tough to swallow because seven Mercy players are from Northville. Fogel used to coach in the Northville parks and recreation league.

Jenny Horst (Mercy's all-Catholic fullback) told me after the game that she didn't think she played as well as she could," Fogel said. "She said it was difficult to play against people you've played with all your life. I didn't really know what to say about that."

The Marlins (13-3) will go after the Catholic League championship Thursday. They will take on Marian at Farmington High School. Game time is 4 p.m.

Glenn sweeps NSL track



Victor Show helped North Farmington to a third-place finish at the Northwest Suburban League meet Wednesday.

By Brad Emons
staff writer

It's Westland John Glenn's year in Northwest Suburban League (NSL) track.

Both the Rocket boys and girls won their respective titles by wide margins (see statistics). And don't expect Glenn to give up either title easily next year. The Rockets don't lose much to graduation.

Glenn, Livonia Franklin and North Farmington all went into the boys meet with identical 4-1 dual records, but the Rockets came away with nine firsts on Wednesday to claim its first crown for second-year coach Ernie Rightt.

"We got a lot of performances we didn't expect," said the Glenn coach. "We also got a lot of seconds and thirds, and a lot of people in the finals."

"The boys did an excellent job. They came along nicely this season."

Jeff Melner led the individual winners for Glenn with firsts in the 110-meter hurdles and the long jump.

OTHER GLENN individual winners included Ron Bushaw, who went 15 feet in the pole vault; Sean Bono, 100 dash; Scott Maraschski, 400 run; and sophomore Kyle Suknaitus, 800 run.

The Rockets also captured three of four relay events.

Suknaitus, Shelly, Tod Lillis and Jim Lakatos teamed to win the 3,200 relay, while Bono, Maraschski, Rob Bell and Bill Griesmer captured the 800. In the 1,600, the winning contingent included Maraschski, Bell, Melner and Dan Bozman.

Second place Franklin won the 400 relay in 44.9. The Rockets also won the 200 dash (Craig Crawford) and the 300 low hurdles (Joe Karher).

"We had the dream of winning, but John Glenn did a fantastic job," said Franklin coach Bob Holmes. "We were happy to beat out North for second."

Third place North Farmington got a pair of firsts from Brian Hood, who won the shot put (48-0) and the discus (136-0).

Garden City, which finished fourth, was led by Dave Homann, who set a league record in the 3,200 run (9:36.0) and then won the 1,600. Teammate Jeff Fels, as expected, won with the high jump with a leap of 6-6, but missed getting the league record of 6-8 1/4.

GLENN'S GIRLS, meanwhile, took 11 first places.

Junior Laura Grazulis paced the assault with victories in the 800, 1,600 and 3,200. She also teamed with Sharon Schoonover, Pam Eldridge and Sherry Wilmer to win the 3,200 relay.

Glenn's Karen Opp, meanwhile, captured the 100 and 200 dashes and anchored the Rockets' first place 800 relay squad which also included Tammy Eldridge, Angela Patterson and Michelle Sanchez. Her time of 12:01 in the 100 was a new league record.

Other individuals recording firsts for Glenn included Anna Parish, shot put; Diane Cranston, discus; Julie Hycko, high jump; and Sanchez, 400.

"We took a lot of firsts — and seconds," said Rightt. "And that made the difference."

"We don't have a lot of girls, but we have quality and they rose to the occasion."

OTHER INDIVIDUAL league winners included Laina Shaw, North Farmington; Jong Jumpy Misy Ward, Garden City, 100 hurdles; and Lisa Dominato, Franklin, 300 hurdles.

Dominato, Donna Wozniak, Mary Pollard and Karen Ibbotson teamed to win the 400 relay in 51:53. RU was victorious in the final event, the 1,600 relay.

Garden City was the defending boys champ, while North relinquished its girls title.



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Freshman Ken Davidson gave Harrison a big lift with his Western Lakes championship performance in No. 1 singles Wednesday.

Hawks survive stiff test for WLAA title

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

The Western Lakes Activities Association crowned a new tennis champion on Wednesday. It was Farmington Harrison.

The Hawks withstood a serious test from defending champion Livonia Stevenson, thanks to strong performances from their No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 singles players. (See statistical summary for complete results.)

The Hawks and Spartans each earned 10 points at Wednesday's league meet — the Hawks won the title outright by virtue of their 9-0 dual meet mark.

Stevenson needed to finish first and Harrison third in the league meet to retain the title.

Harrison had to battle more than just the rest of the Western Lakes to win the title. Their foe No. 4 singles player, Brad Hack, injured his ankle playing pick-up basketball last Saturday and was unable to compete.

Mark Eisenberg, the 11th man on the Hawks' roster, replaced Hack and won his first match — a vital point for the Hawks. He then took eventual division champ John Huston of Northville to three sets before bowing out. Freshman Ken Davidson came through in No. 1 singles for Harrison. He won the Western Division title by staving off relentless Arvid Streedarn of Northville, 6-3, 6-2. Streedarn had defeated Davidson earlier in the season.

DAVIDSON CAME back in the championship flight, and may have been surprised to find Drew Chuba of Farmington as his opponent from the Lakes Division.

The Lakes Division winner was expected to be Stevenson's Todd Brown, however, ran into Livonia Davidson's stand-up Jay Parish. The two went into a tie breaker in the third set — Parish winning 11-4.

An exhausted Parish then had to take on Chuba, an outstanding player, and was beat in two sets, 6-1, 7-6. Davidson rolled past Chuba in the final, 6-1, 6-1.

Please turn to Page 2

Farmington 4th in county meet

By Jim Hughes
staff writer

Southfield girls track and field coach Pete Mazzara wasn't sure how good his Blue Jays team could be this season. Now, he's certain.

Southfield, which won league and district titles in a span of five days, placed second to defending champion Pontiac Northern at Thursday's Oakland County Meet in Clawson.

"Before the season I thought we would be a good team," said Mazzara, who was named Oakland County Coach of the Year. "After the fourth meet, I told the girls they could either be a good team or a great team. They chose to be a great team."

The Blue Jays, who won the Southeastern Michigan Association

title by 98 points, picked up 51 in the county gathering while Northern amassed 53. Bloomfield Hills Andover turned in a strong performance with 49th points, as did Farmington, which netted 51 points.

BIRMINGHAM SEABOARD'S Michelle Bews and Country Day's Kristi Jackson each set new meet records. Jackson cruised through the 110-yard hurdles in 15.12, while Bews lapped nearly every competitor en route to a 10:33.5 clocking in the two mile.

"That's the best two mile ever in the state, unless there's someone out there I don't know about," Seaboard coach Ron Wheeler said. "It wasn't a surprise because she went in fresh. The last 3-4 miles she doubled up in the mile and two mile. She was ready and her race was well planned."

Draper, who went 3-for-3 in the game, also got credit for the win, working the first 5 1/2 innings, before giving way to Tom Cotter, who mopped up to earn the save.

Bob Chevill contributed two hits and a sacrifice.

Don Zang had two hits to pace the Falcons (3-1).

"Farmington played extremely well," Maxwell said. "It's like to compliment Tony Weston. He should be proud of the way his team played."

SOFTBALL

W. BLOOMFIELD 9, HARRISON 6; The Hawks committed eight errors in

girls track

Southfield did not take any individual first-place finishes, but the Blue Jay runners had enough depth to take the No. 2 overall spot. Mazzara was hoping his team would place in the top four, explaining, "We're a sophomore team. Our time will come."

When he learned his team placed second, he was a bit more enthusiastic.

"It's great, fantastic," said Mazzara as he safely tucked the runner-up trophy under his left arm. "It's especially great because we're such a young team. But we've been tough all season."

baseball

their crushing loss to the Lakers on Friday, sending Harrison to an early exit in state pre-district softball action.

The Lakers (18-4) jumped out to an early 6-0 lead after scoring three runs in the opening inning, two in the second and one in the third.

Center fielder Lisa Brown played an outstanding game in the field and added two sacrifices and a walk to lead the Lakers.

"She's the best center fielder I've seen all year," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "They have a great batting game."

Tennis

WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
TENNIS MEET
at Livonia CC

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