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Smoke

Fast Freddie recovers, eyes Observerland meet

By C.J. Risak
staff writer

Fred Owens missed a lot of his last football season this year at Redford Bishop Borgess because of an injury but still got a University of Wisconsin scholarship.

He's recovered now and running smoothly for the Spartan track team. So smoothly, in fact, that he's established 2 new school records in his best events — the 100 and 200 meter sprints.

If an injured Owens — he missed 5 football games with a knee injury — is still worth a scholarship to Wisconsin recruiters, you have to wonder what a healthy, record-setting Owens might have been worth to college track recruiters.

HIS EARLY-SEASON success has him thinking about college track, Owens admits. "I really would like to run track, but there's that conflict with spring football practice, so I don't know," he said.

Have no fear, Badgers, Owens isn't about to forsake football for track. But when a kid coming off a knee injury rattles off a 10.5 100-meter dash — breaking the Borgess record of 10.8 held jointly by Owens (last year) and Steve Krogulecki (1978) — it's only natural for him to start thinking about 2 sports.

Owens, the Observer's track man of the year in 1984, has also bettered Krogulecki's school mark at 200 meters. Krogulecki had gone 22.2 in the

boys track

THE O&E RELAYS

WHAT: The Observerland Relays.
WHO: 14 area high school boys track teams.
WHERE: Church Hill High School in Livonia (Spartan and Wolverine relays).
WHEN: Saturday, May 4. The pole vault relay begins at 1:30 p.m.; remaining field events, 3 p.m.; preliminary heats, 6:30 p.m.; final heats, 7 p.m. (starting with the 4 by 1,500 relay).
HOW: Co-sponsored by the Observer and Eclectic Newspapers and Church Hill High School.
WHY: Great entertainment — admission is only \$1.50 per person.

220-yard dash in 1978; Owens went 22.1 over 200 meters.

OWENS' 10.5 100-meter record translates to 9.6 over 100 yards. Krogulecki's record was 9.7 for 100 yards.

The question is, how much better can Owens get?

"That's what we keep asking ourselves," said Borgess track coach Gene Grewe. "It's hard to say. We'd like to think he hasn't reached his peak yet. We hope he can take a couple more tenths off his 100 time."

"He's running strong. I don't think he's stretched to his limit yet."

Owens, too, believes there's still room for improvement, although he won't estimate how much in terms of time. "I sat down at the beginning of the season with my coach and set some goals," Owens said. "He's pretty positive, and that keeps me pretty positive."

THOSE GOALS were in "technique, leg speed," rather than actual time shaved off the clock, Owens said.

"In the 100 meters, I think I could be one of the best in the state if I keep working hard at it," he added. At last year's state meet, Owens finished seventh in the 100. He did not race in the 200.

"You know, track is one of those sports that other than the relays, is really individual," he said. "You can only improve so much, but every day you go out and feel you can improve some more."

"I guess once you become satisfied is when you stop improving."

Owens will be defending his Observerland Relays 100-meter title Saturday and helping Borgess defend its team title. In addition to winning the 100, Owens anchored Borgess' winning 400, 800 and 1,600 meter relays.

The Observerland Relays will be at Livonia Church Hill, with field events starting at 3:30 p.m. and preliminary track events at 5 p.m. Track finals start at approximately 7 p.m.



Fred Owens of Redford Bishop Borgess was voted the 1984 Observerland Trackman of the Year. On Saturday, the senior sprinter will be a key figure in the Spartans' quest of a second straight Observerland Relays crown.

DAN DEGAN/staff photographer

Sweeps send Falcons soaring; Raiders roll

Despite a superb individual performance by Plymouth Salem's Brian Neuhardt, the Farmington boys track team powered past the Rocks 79-58 Thursday in a key Western Lakes Lakes Division showdown.

"We were very serious about this meet," said Falcon track coach Dave Catherman. "This is the first divisional meet of the year and it's the last year that the dual meets will decide the division champion."

It was also a duel between Observerland's No. 3 (Farmington) and No. 5-ranked (Salem) teams.

"We went in as hard as we could," Catherman said.

The Falcons were able to offset three individual firsts from Neuhardt by sweeping two events and winning three of four relays.

Ab Hazen (5-10), Brian Looser (5-10) and Carl Borbi (5-8) went 1-2-3 in the high jump. Chris Inch (4:31.7), Brian Lawton (4:55.0) and Bruce Kraft (4:56.0) went 1-2-3 in the mile. Farmington outscored the Rocks 18-0 in those events.

AND BY winning the three relays, Farmington gained an additional 15 points.

"We have not been able to put together successful relays," said Salem coach Gary Balconi. "But that certainly can improve."

The Rocks were competing without the services of standout Mike White, but Balconi firmly stated that was no excuse. The Falcons were without the services of Greg Feenstra.

Neuhardt, a sophomore, won all three sprint races for the Rocks. He took the 100-yard dash in 10.1, the 220 in 23.44 and the 440 in 1:17.4.

Craig Morton was also a double-event winner for the Rocks, getting both the long jump (19-8 1/2) and the discus (135-3) (15-8). Morton also anchored Salem's lone relay win, bringing home the mile relay in 3:52.52.

Mike Harwood won the pole vault with a 13-0.

Farmington's Craig Petersmark won both the shot put (48-0) and the discus (133-8). And Inch, also a double winner, took the mile and 2-mile (1:10:34.1).

Greg Minewasser won the 330 low hurdles for the Falcons (44.5) and Al Stebbins took the 880 (2:04.1).

Mike Forge played a key role in the relays for Farmington. The sprinter anchored the winning 440 (46.7) and 880 (1:35.8) relays. The Falcons captured the 2-mile relay with a swift 8:32.06.

Farmington is now 3-1 on the season. Salem is 0-2.

NORTH FARMINGTON'S impressive 71-9 victory against the Northwest Suburban League rival Westland John Glenn Thursday was the result of two things.

First, the Raiders rolled to a 31-5 advantage in the field events. Second, when the meet was on the line, North distance runner Kirk Armstrong came through.

Senior strongman Brian Hood led the Raider rout in the field events. He won both the shot put (49-10 1/4) and the discus (135-3). Equally important, Joe Sakofake took second in both events and Wes Fringle added a third in the shot.

Dale Eichenbas (5-10) and Pat Henderson (5-8) went 1-2 in the high jump and Warren Johnson (10-1) won the long jump. Ron Bushaw completed the sweep with a first in pole vault (11-6).

John Glenn got back into contention by winning three of the four relay events.

To win the meet, North needed at least a second-place finish from Armstrong in the 3,200-meter run. Armstrong, who had placed second in the 1,600 (4:32.0), settled the score by winning the 3,200 in 10:07.0.

Other winners for North were Chris Wojtowycz in the 110-high hurdles (16.3), Lee Ekstrom in the 200 dash (24.97) and Johnson in the 400 (53.9). North also won the 400 relay in 48.7.

The Raiders are 2-0 in the NSL, 2-1 overall. Glenn is 1-1.

FARMINGTON HARRISON received rather rude treatment at Livonia Churchill Thursday, getting pounced 25-41 by the Western Lakes League leaders.

Churchill won all but two events against the Hawks.

John Waak's 11-0 leap won the pole vault and Lamont Burgess took the 500-meter low hurdles (41.9) for Harrison.

The Hawks are 2-2. Churchill is 3-1.

DeMattia tossed a 30-yard throw-in pass in the direction of Ruggiero. It went off her to Kathy Rush who made a nice feed to Ruggiero who buried it into the goal.

It was Ruggiero's 16th goal in 7 games.

Meanwhile, Malse was facing 25 Regina shots, 22 in the first half.

Renee Bibeau, Margaret DeMattia and Bann Rangarajan played superb along the defense but the key was Leigh Clancy. She was assigned to shadow Regina's all-starer Janine Hurst. Clancy kept the high-scoring forward away from the net.

On Wednesday, Mercy ripped Bishop Gallagher 10-2. Ruggiero scored 4 goals in this one. Mary Duwel, Rush, Amy DeMattia, Mary Beth Laramella, Clancy and Karen Baldas also scored.

Mercy is 5-2 overall.

NORTH FARMINGTON evened its record at 3-3 with a pair of victories last week.

On Wednesday, the Raiders bested rival Farmington 4-2. On Friday, the Raiders beat West Bloomfield 6-2.

There were two constants in both games. One was the goal scoring of Jean Anlovor. She scored 4 goals in each game. The other was goalie Brooks Landback, who was solid in both games.

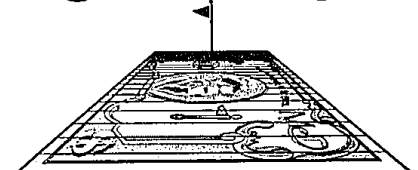
Loft Dingle scored both goals for Farmington.

Against West Bloomfield, Kristi McMin scored a goal and added 3 assists. Suzie Mattoon also scored.

Lainna Shaw: All-American

Former North Farmington standout Lainna Shaw was named to USA Today's Honorable Mention All-American girls basketball team. Shaw, a junior who moved to Pennsylvania a year ago, averaged 18.8 points a game for Strath Haven High School in Wallingford, Pa. Shaw was one of just two juniors honored from Pennsylvania.

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Mercy jolts Regina; Ladywood next

Don't look now, but another Farmington Hills Mercy-Ladywood showdown is set.

This time the rivalry will be played out on a soccer field instead of a basketball court.

Both teams, undefeated in Catholic League play, will battle at 5 p.m. tonight at Mercy.

The Marinas used some sparkling goal-tending by Jenny Malse and an equally sly defense to beat Harper Woods Regina 1-0 in Mount Clemens Friday.

Regina entered the match unbeaten and ranked No. 7 in the state. Mercy came in unbeaten and ranked No. 8.

Annette Ruggiero, the league's premier goal scorer, notched the game's only goal. In the first minute of the second half, Amy