2-mile strategy works, Falcons defeat Canton

The Farmington girls track team had Plymouth Canton well-scouted Thursday.

Canton, leaders of the Western Lakes Western Division, had its dual meet win streak stopped Tuesday by rival Plymouth Salem. Salem took charge of that meet by exploiting Canton in the 2-mile run.

Farmington successfully deployed the same tactic Thursday and defeated the Chiefs 71-57.

"It was back and forth throughout the meet," said Farmington coach Jerry Young. "We wanted to avoid getting into a mile relay battle with them so we loaded up in the 2 mile. We needed a first and we got a first and third. That sewed things up for us."

Nicole Jelley won the 2 mile in 12:50.0.

Alyse Fortune was the big gun for the Falcons. She won three individual events and anchored the winning 440-yard relay (53.8). Fortune won the long jump (15-9¼), the 100 dash (12.1) and the 220 (27.3).

Jenny Lindbert also had a nice meet. She won the mile (5:43.0) and ran legs of both the mile relay (4:30.7) and 2 mile relay (10:15.0).

Other Falcon winners were Lori Casaroll in the 330 low hurdles (49.8) and Anna Quenneville in the 880 (2:32.6).

Canton got a double win from Hollie Ivey in both the shot put (32-11) and discus (101-5). Angie Miller won the high jump (4-8), Cheri Remer the 110 high hurdles (17.7) and Tricia Carney the 440 (1:03.9) for the Chiefs.

Canton (5-2) got a first in the 880 relay (1:57.4).

The Falcons, who are in second place behind Plymouth Salem in the Lakes Division, are 6-2 on the season.

NORTH FARMINGTON took no prisoners Thursday at Redford Thurston.

The Raiders won 11 of 16 events walloping their Northwest Suburban League rivals 91-37.

Nancy Cothran and Diana Richel each won a pair of events for North. Cothran won the shot put (29-8½) and the discus (90-8½). Richel won the long jump (14-8) and the 220-yard dash (29.22).

Other North winners were: Tammy Spengler in the 100 (13.0), Julie Garczynski in the 440 (1:02.8), Carolyn Alkon in the 880 (2:34.1), Barb Zeno in the mile (5:37.0) and Donna Chuba in the 2 mile (13:37.0).

North (3-1 in the NSL, 4-3 overall) also won the mile relay (4:54.0) and the 2 mile relay (13:02.0).

FARMINGTON HILLS MERCY keeps rolling along unbeaten through the Catholic League dual meet season. On Thursday, the Marlins disposed of Birmingham Marian 93-35.

The Marlins won all but two events. Terri Ford, an All-Area sprinter, won three events. She captured the high jump (4-9), the 100-yard dash (11.6) and the 220 (26.5). She also anchored the victorious 880 relay for Mercy (1:52.2).

Aimee DePotter won both throwing events, the shot put in 31-1 and the discus, 98-4.

Other Marlin winners: Tanya Faison in the long jump (13-9½), Tracey Balog in the high hurdles (16.1), Carrie Balog in the low hurdles (59.2), Tanya Harbin in the 440 (1:03.8), Barb Cheaney in the 880 (2:40.4), Ellen McCarthy in the mile (5:52.2) and Megan Gherick in the 2 mile (13:15.0).

Mercy also won the 2 mile relay (10:31.6).

The Marlins are 5-1 overall, 5-0 in the conference.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Falcon coaching change

Tony Wenson, above, was replaced as the head baseball coach at Farmington High School after the Falcons lost to Farmington Harrison Wednesday. Farmington athletic director Ron Holland said that Wenson was having difficulty juggling both his full-time job and coaching duties. Junior varsity coach Kevin Kaneman has been appointed head varsity coach for the remainder of the season.

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Ignasiak a red-hot Wolve

By C.J. Risak
staff writer

Examining Mike Ignasiak's accomplishments is like viewing a highlight film that has no end: It keeps getting better and better.

From pitching Orchard Lake St. Mary's into the Class C state finals as a junior to landing a scholarship to University of Michigan and then earning a spot in the Wolverine's rotation, Ignasiak has been like a fine wine — improving with age. Only his improvement has been much faster.

Indeed, the only thing that could possibly overshadow the hard-throwing righthander's present achievements is the promise of his future.

"I was expecting to come here and maybe throw a little bit my first year," said Ignasiak. He's still in his freshman season, and he's thrown more than a little bit: He ranks second or third in the Wolverines' rotation.

THIS IS the same Michigan team, remember, that's rated sixth in the NCAA and boasted a 41-6 record after sweeping two double-headers from Michigan State last weekend.

The sweep was important. It gave the Wolverines a 10-2 record in the Big Ten's East Division and put them in position to clinch the title. All they need do is split their four-game home set with Purdue this weekend to assure themselves of the division crown.

Ignasiak was more than a minor contributor over the weekend. He salvaged the pitching staff, collecting two victories and a save in the four games. That performance earned him Big Ten Player of the Week honors.

college sports

"It's pretty exciting," said Ignasiak of the award. "It rates way up there. I was really surprised to get it. I thought Mike Watters, our leadoff batter, would get it. He went 10-for-15 over the weekend, and he's an upperclassman, while I'm just a freshman."

THE FIRST two games against MSU were a pitcher's nightmare, but Michigan prevailed thanks to Ignasiak's relief performances. The Wolverines won the opener 15-14 in eight innings. They led 14-12 in the seventh but the Spartans had men on second and third with no one out when Ignasiak was summoned.

He allowed runs to score on a ground out and a single before getting an inning-ending double play. Michigan then got a run in the top of the eighth and Ignasiak hurled a scoreless bottom half to earn the win.

In game No. 2, Ignasiak relieved Greg Everson in the bottom of the sixth with Spartans on first and second and a 3-1 count on catcher John Judge. He walked Judge to fill the bases, but then struck out Todd Krumm and Jim Sepanek to end the inning.

IGNASIAK'S EFFORT kept Michigan in front 10-8. The Wolverines added two runs in the seventh, and despite surrendering a single and a homer in the bottom of the inning, the freshman hurler got the save in a 12-10 triumph.

Ignasiak got a start on Sunday and responded with five strong innings. MSU managed one run on four hits and two walks while striking out five times in his five-inning stint, which resulted in a 7-1 Michigan victory and Ignasiak's second victory of the weekend.

"That had to be the best two days of my life," he said afterwards. "Especially coming against MSU, our big rivals."

But don't be misled: Ignasiak has had a few other big days for the Wolverines. He currently boasts a 6-1 record and has three saves. He's pitched 44⅔ innings and allowed 43 hits, 22 walks and 17 earned runs while striking out 33. His 3.42 earned run average ranks second among Michigan's regulars.

IGNASIAK CREDITS his quick acclimation to college baseball to solid coaching.

"In high school, I used to blow the ball by people," he explained. But he knew he would never be able to get by with just a fastball at Michigan.

"Coach (Bud) Middaugh taught me a couple new pitches," said Ignasiak. "I throw a slider and a change-up now, and a curve once in awhile. In high school, I threw just a fastball and a slider occasionally."

But that's not all. "I'm hitting the corners," he added. "That's the key. You have to put the ball in the right spot."

What lessons Ignasiak has had to learn to make it in college baseball, he's absorbed quickly. For instance, he's learned to:

"Listen to the coach and throw what he wants you to throw. I listen to the whole ball club. It's a team effort."

And, as for finding himself pitching against the best college players, he's learned to "just go out and do my job. I can't think about that kind of thing. I started pretty well early this season, then tapered off, and I started thinking about that stuff.

"Then I realized, I can't do that. I just have to do my job."

SHOULD HE continue to do his job, Michigan will fare well in what Ignasiak eyes as his present goal: the college World Series.

"I'd really like to come back here with a championship," he said. "We have a lot of good juniors who probably won't be around that long, so I'd like to get it this year."

Of course, should Ignasiak's improvement continue, he may not be around long, either. "If the right (pro) opportunity arrived, I'd go, definitely," he said. "I'd like to get my degree also. You can only play baseball for so long."

Ignasiak figures he'll increase his pro chances by becoming "more consistent in my outings. In one I do well; then in the next I'm not."

Of course, he's still just midway through his freshman season. Give him some time. At his present pace, professional baseball can't be far off.

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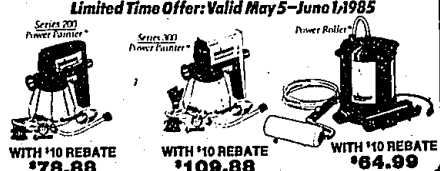

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The foundation's principal office is located at 555 S. Woodward, Suite 7 East, Birmingham, Michigan 48011, and its phone number is 647-5789. The principal manager of the foundation is Ira Salder. The accountant is Edward Menczer, C.P.A., 24901 Northwestern Highway, Suite 308, Southfield, MI 48075.

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Falcon runners rip Canton

The Farmington boys track team has been competing in three track meets a week the last two weeks. But you'd be hard -pressed to convince Plymouth Canton that the Falcons were tired Thursday.

The Falcons, winning 12 of 17 events, defeated Canton 90-47 in a Western Lakes dual meet at Farmington.

Craig Petersmark's strong right arm brought Farmington a pair of firsts. He won the shot put (49-3) and the discus (136-6).

Other individual winners for the Falcons were Ab Hazen in the high jump (5-8), Greg Feenstra in the 330-yard low hurdles (41.7), Nathan Case in the 100 (10.8), Mike Forge in the 440 (52.13), Al Stebbins in the 880 (1:59.9), Bruce Kratt in the mile (4:38.0) and Chris Inch in the 2 mile (10:18.3).

Canton got firsts from Craig Houston in the pole vault (11-6), Pat McGow in the 220 (24.1) and David Khang in the long jump (18-10¾).

Farmington (6-2, 3-1 in the conference) won the 440 relay (45.6), the 880 relay (1:34.1) and the mile relay (3:41.3).

Canton won the 2 mile relay (8:45.6).

NORTH FARMINGTON used a trio of firsts from senior Kirk Armstrong to defeat Northwest Suburban League rival Redford Thurston 75-60 on Thursday.

Armstrong won the 800-meter run (2:01.0), the 1,600 (4:51.0) and the 3,200 (10:53.0) — an impressive accomplishment.

Brian Hood captured both the shot put (44-1) and the discus (142-0). Lee Ekstrom won the 200 (23.5).

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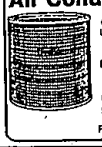

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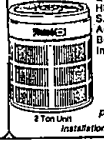

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