

Talented prep girls track individuals back

By Brad Emmons
and Larry O'Connor
staff writers

THE 1986 GIRLS TRACK season has already started, but it may take awhile before another series of records will be broken.

Trying to sort out the area's top teams will be difficult. But sorting out the area's top individuals will be easier.

Westland John Glenn's one-woman show will be presented again by Karen Opp, voted Oberneward Trackwoman of the Year in 1985.

Opp anchored the Glenn 3,200-meter relay squad that finished second last season in the state Class A meet.

With only 14 teammates, Opp will have to carry the load again for first-year coach Cathy Moneymeyer.

Fairfaxians' Mary's Terri Ford, the area's top sprinter last season, also returns along with Livonia Ladypark's Jean Arndt, an outstanding middle-distance runner.

Other All-Area picks returning include Livonia Churchill sophomore Karen Kanior, a standout distance runner, and Sue Naster, Redford Bishop Borgess' discus/shot put pink.

Here is a pre-season look, team-by-team, at girls track in the Livonia, Westland, Redford and Garden City areas.

BISHOP BORGESS

Springer Lorraine Washington and All-Area high jumper Samia Shivers were lost to graduation, but coach John McGreevy has a solid replacement.

Junior high jumper Cheri Johnson has already cleared 5 feet, 4 inches indoors.

Sue Naster is to top her marks of 374 and 1173 in the discus and shot put, respectively.

Freshman Michelle Gaynor leads a talented distance group that also includes junior Kelly Dooly and sophomore Michelle Gross.

High jumper/hurdler Andrea Jackson is expected to be strong.

"Our goals are to win the league, the regional and Oberneward," McGreevy said. "But it depends on how our young kids develop."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

Karen Opp, who clocked a 58.6 last season in the 400-meter run, is in peak shape to run four events again, according to first-year coach Cathy Moneymeyer.

"We have four or five in the field events, but I'm not sure what they can do."

"We lost quite a few kids to jobs. We're all in team and I knew when I took over that we'd be small, but not this small."

Some of Glenn's supporting cast includes distance runners Ginger Rowland and Pauline Shivers, shot putter Stacy Graham and sprinter Tonya Patterson.

Graham is expected to fill the void in the throwing events left by two-time All-Area pick Anna Parikh.

WAYNE MEMORIAL

"From what I understand, the difference between last year and this year's team is that we have quite a bit of speed," said first-year coach Joe Gray.

"I've seen a little bit of talent, and I think we'll be competitive in the league next year."

The 10-member Wayne team is led by senior sprinter Dan Buhkhalter, who did not run last season. She will be pushed by the speedy and versatile Sabrina Moore.

Other hurdlers throw the shot and high jump. Michelle Kozlowski, a sprinter/high jumper, Mountaineer, is a high jumper, Mountaineer, Tricia Williams and Connie Eldridge.

In the middle-distance events, senior Karen Jacobs leads the way with depth provided by Lisa Kunz, Jackie Brusseau and Lisa Kitze.

GARDEN CITY

The Cougars are also loaded in the upturn of the phase.

With the return of senior Missey Ward, a second-year All-Area choice last year in the 300 hurdles, the Cougars are first-year tracksters.

Other holdovers for coach Chris Joski's 20-member team include Nikki Stubbs, Pam Salter and Debbie Babb.

Junior sophomores, Marcia McKeeze and Adriana Eldridge, will give G.C. more depth in the sprints.

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Karen Opp
John Glenn



Joan Arndt
Ladypark



Sue Naster
Borgess

REDFORD UNION

Jim Miller is optimistic about the Panthers' chances in the NSL.

"We have some depth for a change," said first-year coach. "It looks real good for us."

"We're stronger in the distance events and weaker in the field events. It's going to be quite a competitive league. Nobody is going to run away with it. Edsel Ford is strong in the field and Dearborn is strong in the middle."

Second team All-Area shot putter Nancy Bischfeld is the only notable loss to graduation.

Other replacements for RU include Janis Billings and Andra Hunter, discus; Heather Armstrong and Michelle Zarenski, middle distance; Jody Taylor and Ann Jacobson, hurdlers; Teresa Kaczor and Amy Gustafson, discus; Barb Brum, Edred Beg, Jennifer Overgard, Joann Killinger and Karen Starlak, sprints.

LIVONIA LADYWOOD

Bob Zimmerman cringes at just the thought of the phrase.

But the all-too-familiar rebuilding year has descended on the Ladywood camp. And there's an outpouring of new faces as a result of the 30-member team's first-year tracksters.

Other middle-distance runners Joann Killinger, Debbie Babb, Debbie Babb, Pam Salter and Debbie Babb.

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LIVONIA FRANKLIN

Excuse coach Steve Dollaway if he felt a bit out of place at the beginning of the season when he was 73 years old to get the team to a rebuilding year for the Panthers.

Dollaway only knew 12 of them, the rest of those supposed to return didn't show up a rebuilding year for the Panthers, who are also in a new league (West Lake).

Like Livonia Franklin, Dana Marman (hurdler), Patti Brandon (discus/shot put), Katie Harris (distance runner), and Erica Andrews (distance runner) return with Dollaway.

There are new, which leaves Dollaway in a quandary when it comes to picking his team's outlook for the season.

"It's really hard to tell," said Dollaway. "In the last year, we're in the same boat this season." He said it could come down between (Franklin), Mercy and (Redford Bishop) Dearborn.

Second team All-Area shot putter Nancy Bischfeld is the only notable loss to graduation.

Other better known distance runners from the team are Janis Billings and Andra Hunter, discus; Heather Armstrong and Michelle Zarenski, middle distance; Jody Taylor and Ann Jacobson, hurdlers; Teresa Kaczor and Amy Gustafson, discus; Barb Brum, Edred Beg, Jennifer Overgard, Joann Killinger and Karen Starlak, sprints.

Third team All-Area shot putter Nancy Bischfeld is the only notable loss to graduation.

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One meet wouldn't be much of a problem, since the Spartans were 5-3-2 in that department last season. Yet, there's still holes to be filled.

Replacements must be found for All-Area long jumper Amy Rozman, a sprinter who was in the relay events. Sue Taigligh, distance runner, and Chris Schenck, who tossed the discus and was a high jumper. Graduation took them all away.

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LIVONIA CHURCHILL

Livonia Churchill won't fly out of the gate, but the Chargers will catch up and end the year with a bang.

The distance team is above the Chargers forte this season. Carol Sulick and Karen Kanior, both all-area cross country runners, are back along with Stacy Anderson and (new) Cheryl Hill. Thurston will be there with them.

For that mission, Lake is counting on a strong stock of returnees.

Of the two-mile relay squad, of which Murphy was a member, there's a pair of solid replacements. Freshman Chris Folks and Linda Brown are both looking to see some time on the two-mile team.

Also, there's a good stock of returnees, including Terri Robins (hurdles), Janis Billings (middle distance), Linda Opipari (middle distance), Jenny Bell, Cheryl Hill, Thurston and (new) Cheryl Scurra (distance runner).

Other solid replacements are Linda Opipari (middle distance), Linda Opipari (hurdles), Linda Opipari (high jump) and Laura Picano (middle distance).

Carol Mouchet (sprinter), Angie Halzen (sprinter), Debbie Daniels (distance runner), Kris Stuckel (distance runner) and Kathy Tucci (middle distance runner) also return this season.

Thurston also has a bevy of promising newcomers, including Krista Tulson (distance runner), Krista Tulson (distance runner), Krista Tulson (distance runner) and Nancy Stein.

Distance is our strongest area because they are consistent," said Churchill coach Carol Mulkilkin. "They've ran together for a year and they're more a family-type group."

Gretchen Loy (sprinter) and Colleen McPhee (hurdler) also return.

With the returnees, there's some new faces, including Jenifer Danzer (sprinter/hurdler) and Carol Folks (hurdler), both looked to be the most promising of the group.

McPhee admitted field events will be Churchill's weak spot this season. However, she doesn't believe it should keep them out of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Speedy Tatum gets Zebras moving

Wayne Memorial is off to an impressive start in boys track.

The Zebras took fifth place out of a field of 53 in Saturday's Spartan Relays at Michigan State University.

On Tuesday, Wayne drilled Garden City in a dual meet, 10:34.

The 800-yard relay team of Alvin Allen, Wayne Roberts, Eddie Jordan and Darrin Tatum finished second at the Spartan Relays with a time of 1:34.6.

Tatum, Allen, Roberts and Bret Thirring garnered a meet with a time of 2:37.2.

Individual fourths were recorded by Ron Johnson in the two-mile run (6:23.0) and Alvin Allen in the long jump (20' 6 inches, 5 inches).

In the mile relay, Tatum, Allen, Roberts and Byron Nolen took second.

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