

City titles to North, FHS

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Julie Garezynski took the 400 (1:02.8) to give North a sweep in the sprints.

The Raiders took three of the four relays, as well: the 800 (1:54.0), the 1,600 (4:26.0) and the 3,200 (10:25.0).

Chris Devine won two events for Farmington. She took the shot put (32-1) and the discus (92-3). Lori Casaroli won the 300 low hurdles (59.0) and Anna Quenneville won the 800 (2:36.0).

For Harrison, Jenny Anderson won both the 1,600 (5:41.4) and the 3,200 (12:25.0). Tracy Solomon won the long jump (14-4 1/2) and Jamie Holcomb took the 100 high hurdles (17.6). Harrison also won the 400 relay (54.2).

Pretty good fun for a meet that was at one time canceled by the six coaches.

ON SATURDAY, the Farmington boys track team made a strong showing at the 28-team West Bloomfield Relays.

The Falcons placed fifth in the meet with 36 points. Pontiac Northern and Kalamazoo Loy Norrix tied for first with 64 points. Southfield (43) and Troy (38) placed third and fourth.

The Falcons gave another superlative performance. The junior won the open mile (4:21.4), the closest challenger being five seconds off Stebbins' pace.

Then he came back to run a 1:56.0 split in the anchor leg of Farmington's second-place 2-mile relay. He teamed with Bruce Kratt, Ron Smedley and John Perkins on an 8:07.3.

Chris Hill won the open 2-mile with a 9:33.1.

Craig Petersmark placed third in the shot put (50-6) and fifth in the discus (142-0).

track



Al Stebbins won the open mile at the West Bloomfield Invitational Saturday.

No sure-fire bets in Observerland track race

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

In most years, if you picked Livonia Churchill, Plymouth Salem or Bishop Borgess to win the Observerland Track and Field Relays, you had a good chance of being correct.

Only four times since 1973 has one of those three teams failed to win at Observerland.

Saturday at Churchill, in the 16th running of the Observerland Relays, things could be different.

"I think in the past some teams have been able to dominate this meet. But this year, whoever comes and is ready to compete has a chance to win," said Fred Price, Churchill coach.

Don't get the idea that perennial favorites Churchill, Salem and Borgess are weak this year. On the contrary, all three are expected to be in the thick of the title chase.

IT'S JUST that other teams seem so much stronger. Teams like Redford Catholic Central and Plymouth Canton, just to name two.

Canton, just to name two. This could be one of the most balanced fields we've ever had for this meet. "Southfield-Lathrup has a lot more depth this year. They'll field a full team. Livonia Franklin has some real nice pole vaulters. Plymouth Salem will score. Plymouth Canton looks real good. You know Borgess, once on the track, can be very dominating. It's just a real balanced field."

The Observerland's setup is unique in that it puts a premium on overall team depth. The team with the absolute fastest runners isn't always the team that is able to score enough points to win. There are only three open or individual races in the 16-event meet.

"The key to winning this meet is to score in every event," Price said. "And with the balance of talent this year, that could be difficult."

Here's a brief look at the frontrunners in this event:

BORGESS: Regardless of how im-

proved the rest of the teams are, Bishop Borgess has to be considered the favorite. First-year coach, Gary Hicks has put together a strong field event team to supplement the Spartans' always-formidable sprint and hurdle teams.

The Spartans, ranked No. 1 in Observerland, recently placed second at the Dearborn Elks Relays and has shipped Churchill in a dual meet.

Key Spartan individuals include Marion Pittman, Corey Ivey, Brian Kelly, Eric Harp and Ivan Colman.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL: After a couple down seasons, CC has again gained respect in both the Catholic League and in Observerland.

"I don't like to make predictions, but if I did, I think Borgess and Catholic Central may wind up 1-2," said Price.

The reason is Catholic Central's powerful field event and distance teams. At the Elks, CC's Dan Nash, Tom Elfrid, Matt Peterson and Perry Pinto combined on a 185-5 1/2 to win the shot put. Elfrid, Fris and Nash also won the discus relay with a 358-3.

Other key Shamrocks will be Dave Nagy, Jim Fedewa, Kevin Woolley and John Regan.

PLYMOUTH CANTON: The Chiefs grabbed two firsts at the Elks, beat Churchill in a dual meet and placed second at the Belleville Tiger Relays — it's a strong team.

"Our pre-season goal was to do well at Observerland, and the kids are really looking forward to going into this kind of competition," said first-year Canton coach Rob Neu.

The Chiefs have strong jumpers and solid hurdlers. The long jump

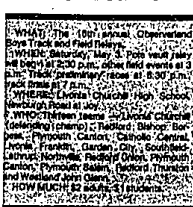


Photo of the 1988 Observerland Relays.

trio of Tyrone Reeves, Roger Trice and Geoff Estevez has taken first at both the Elks and Tigers. Reeves has jumped consistently better than 21-0 every time out, his best being 21-3.

Steve Gony, Ron Ziemba and Dave Mac won the high jump relay at the Tigers and placed third at the Elks.

The hurdles team of Dan Houdek, Jake Mitchell, Larry Altmann and Bryan Whiteley won at Elks (1:07.35 high hurdles) and placed second at the Tigers (1:07.2).

Jim Swiecki, a sophomore, has bolstered Canton in the distance events.

The question mark for Canton will be in the sprint events.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL: You can never count the Chargers out of this meet. Price's teams are built perfectly for the Observerland meet — not outstanding individually, but solid and deep in every event. That's why the Chargers have won the meet seven times, including last year.

"It can happen," Price said of the likelihood of Churchill repeating. "If

you come in ready and others drop their efforts, we have an outside chance. We certainly weren't expected to win last year. We are not blessed with great speed, but this really isn't a speed meet."

Churchill is strong in middle distance and distance events with Rob Annett, Pete Mills, John Tracy, Dave Belanger, Keith McGorick and Chris Pfeifer.

Churchill should also score in the field events with Doug Copely, Erich Brandemuhl and Jim Rinilla. Other key Chargers are Brent Widlak, Matt Beebe and Curtis Burton.

PLYMOUTH SALEM: "For us to win? It'll take a lot of surprises," said coach Gary Balconi. But Salem has posted many surprises at this meet over the years.

Brian Neuhardt will be one of the premier sprinters at the meet. He won the open 100-meter dash last year.

Salem is strong in the field also, particularly in the jump teams. Tony Moore, Dave Collins and Doug Sabo placed second in the high jump at both the Elks and the Tigers. Neuhardt, Alan Rye and Ming Quech were third in the long jump at the Tigers.

Balconi can also put together speedy sprint or middle distance relay teams with Neuhardt, Bill Campbell, Brian Tiller, Jeff Armstrong, Chris Hill, Dave Anason, LaMar Crayton, Keith Larson and Garrett Bowie.

Other key Rocks include Sean O'Hare, Keith Smith and Bill Atwell.

As Price said: Whoever wins it the meet can have it. The Observerland title is up for grabs.

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girls track Mercy wins dual meet

Farmington Hills Mercy won its first dual meet of the season Monday, besting Catholic League rival Florio Woods Regina 75-53 at Farmington Harrison.

Terri Ford was the big winner figuring in four first-place finishes. The All-Area senior won the high jump (4-10), 100-meter dash (13.4) and the 200 (27.4).

She also anchored Mercy's winning 800 relay, teaming with Adrienne Clark, Tonya Harbin and Tasha Duff on a 1:53.5 clocking.

Charese Sanders won the shot put with a 29-8 1/2 and Heather Amelberger won the discus with a toss of 58-2. Duff won the long jump (13-2 1/2).

On the track, Carrie Balog won the 100-meter high hurdles (18.3) and Harbin won the 400 (1:02.9).

Balog, Bernadette Raymond, Duff and Clark won the 400 relay (55.3).

Bob Kirkland's team is 1-2 on the season, 1-0 in the league.

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