

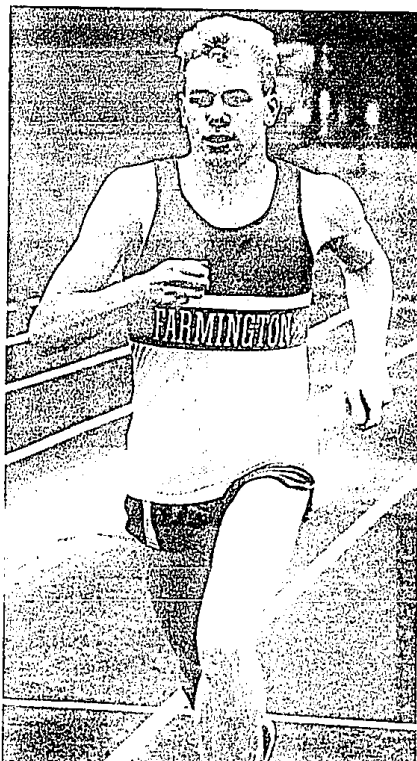
# Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editors/59.1-23.12

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## Falcons land 3 champions

By Chris McCosky  
Staff writer

### track

For the Farmington boys track team, Friday's Class A regional at Hazel Park was a harkening back to the early 1970s, a time when the Falcons streaked to three straight regional championships.

Farmington placed third behind Pontiac Northern and Pontiac Central, but its 50 points were the most scored by the team in several years.

More impressively, the Falcons garnered three regional champions. Junior Al Stebbins won the 1,600-meter run (4:19.9) and placed second in the 800 (1:57.7). Junior Chris Inch won the 3,200 (9:25.2), winning by better than 200 yards.

Senior strongman Craig Petersmark won the shot put (51-1) and placed second in the discus (153-11).

Farmington coach Dave Catherman was cautiously optimistic about the chances for individual state champions.

"This year, everything is definitely up for grabs," he said. "Jerry Young (Falcons assistant coach) has been carefully managing Inch and Stebbins. But it's very difficult to concentrate on the individual goals when so many team things are going on."

The Falcons will be vying for the Western Lakes championship the Wednesday prior to the state meet (May 31 at Flint Northwestern).

NORTH FARMINGTON had to be the big surprise of the Hazel Park regional. Scott Selzer placed second in the talent-laden 100-meter dash with an 11.2. And the Raiders won the 400 relay. Marc Brown, Mark Weintraub, Chris Christman and Selzer set a school record with a 43.47.

"We've had kids as quick as any one of those four before," said North

coach Dave Thorne. "But we never had four like that at the same time."

Kirk Armstrong finished fourth in the 1,600 for North, but his 4:22.7 clocking earned him a berth at the state meet.

FARMINGTON HILLS MERCY scored well in the girls regional at Hazel Park placing sixth. North Farmington placed seventh.

Terri Ford helped the Marlins qualify in four events. She won both the 100 (12.56) and 200 (25.22). She anchored Mercy's third-place 400 relay (51.98) and the third-place 800 relay (1:47.30). In both races she teamed with Adrienne Clark, Tonya Harbin and Adonna Amann.

North Farmington got a second-place from Terry Spengler in the 200 (26.13) and the third in the discus from Nancy Cochran (106-5).

Farmington's lone qualifier was Anna Quenneville. She placed third in the 800 (2:27.6).

IN THE CLASS B girls regional at Chelsea, Farmington Harrison's Jenny Anderson took a pair of firsts and captured two school records in the process.

She won the 1,600 (5:19.3) and the 3,200 (11:47.8), shattering Lauri Runk's 1984 marks in each race.

"I'll be the first to admit that I was surprised by how well she ran," said Harrison coach Mark Babcock.

"She worked real hard, but I think she even surprised herself."

Tracy Solomon just missed qualifying in the high jump as her 4-11

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Chris Inch (left) and Al Stebbins helped Farmington to a third place finish in the Class A regional Friday. Both were regional champs.

photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## All work, no play?

### State acts on grid, soccer playoffs

IT HAS always been my impression that these annual meetings of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Representative Council were akin to a Shriner's convention — you know, bunch of good old boys and girls celebrating the close of another school year.

They always huddle for a weekend up north somewhere at a lodge or resort hotel. This year they went up to Spring Lake — I don't know where Spring Lake is but it sounds nice.

By "they," I refer to the 19-member council, a group of school administrators, principals and coaches who legislate the MHSAA. Also along this year were six MHSAA staff members, including lame-duck grand poobah Vern Norris.

In most years, very little business is conducted at the annual meeting. Just routine items, budgets, staff reports and maybe a slight rule change.

The going basically threw itself a year-end party.

This was clearly not the case this year.

The council took care of some serious business this year, the result of which will be felt in the prep sports community beginning next fall.

THE MOST-publicized of the council's actions was the ruling on the state football playoffs.

Yes, the playoff format will include 64 teams, 16 in each enrollment class. But beginning in the fall of 1987, the first football game of the season will be played prior to Labor Day. This will allow the scheduling of an additional playoff date.

The council had considered using the ninth game of the season as the first playoff date or playing two playoff games in one week.

"I didn't like the idea of disrupting the nine-game schedule or playing two games in a week," said Plymouth South coach Tom Meshimer. "This is the only answer."

That seems to be the consensus among area coaches. The only worry was having enough practice time. The council will allow teams to practice the week of Aug. 10 (pads optional). The first official week of practice begins Aug. 17. No pads will be allowed the first three days of that week.

"What it comes down to is 10 extra days of conditioning," said Walt Bazylewicz, director of the Catholic League and council member. "No one can say we're rushing teams into the season without enough time to prepare."

BAZYLEWICZ ALSO asked the council to reconsider the national rule forcing basketball coaches to remain seated throughout games lest they be slapped with a technical foul.



Chris McCosky

Alas, coaches, keep the seat belts. The council tossed out Bazylewicz's motion.

Several changes were made in soccer.

First, and most important, players red-carded (booted from the game) will have to sit out the next game, regardless if it is a regular season or tournament match.

Currently, if a player is red-carded, the suspension lasts only until the end of that game. Thus, if a player draws the card with two seconds left in the match, the suspension lasts two seconds. Big deal. With the new rule, players will think twice before enacting their frustrations at the end of a match.

The council made many soccer officials happy with this ruling. The hard part will be administering the penalties and keeping track of suspensions.

Also, the state soccer tournament will now be divided into classes: A, B-C and D for boys, A and B-C-D for girls. There will be districts, regionals and state finals similar to basketball. No more confusing prerogative qualifiers and odd-shaped brackets.

AN INTERESTING proposal was made by representatives of the Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood High School regarding its hockey team.

Cranbrook asked permission to take one trip beyond the 200-mile radius allowed by the state and to be granted 26 playing dates rather than the allotted 22 games and four scrimmages.

The council listened patiently to Cranbrook's well-stated rationale, then said, "Uh, no. Next item."

There were many other changes made, like granting a medal to the third low medalist in a golf regional and allowing the top three teams in each cross country regional to qualify for state regardless of the size of the regional.

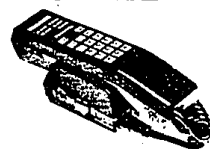
But don't get the idea that it was all work and no play for council members.

Early in the meeting, the council granted \$48.15 per day for six days to those members attending a conference in Nevada, plus a \$30-a-day per diem and reimbursement for registration fees, luncheons and banquets. Oh, almost forgot — those members will receive round-trip air fare.

Have a nice trip.

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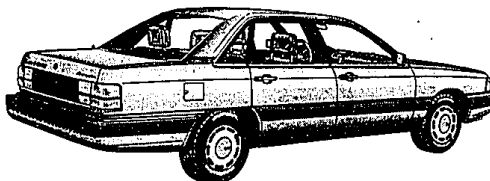
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## Mercy wins crown — 3D