



Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editors/591-2312

Monday, August 25, 1986 O&E

(F)10

## Dual champs?

### Farmington cross country teams eye another twin-killing in WLAA

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

The Farmington boys and girls cross country teams both won Western Lakes championships a year ago. So, what can they do for an encore?

Plenty. Like, win a state championship. Or two.

"I'm afraid we're facing a season where if we aren't in the top five, top three, in the state, we're going to be disappointed," said veteran boys coach Jerry Young. "We're facing that kind of pressure."

The Farmington boys team returns a pair of all-America runners: How's that for openers? Chris Inch and Al Stebbins placed third and seventh, respectively, in the state meet a year ago, earning Farmington a 10th-place fin-

ish. Inch placed seventh in a national meet and Stebbins 11th to earn all-America honors.

But there is a lot more to this team this year.

"OUR DEPTH is the key this year," Young said. "We have seven or eight quality kids. And when I say quality, I'm talking about kids who could run No. 1 on many teams. That means we don't have to count on five kids like last year. The depth will really help us."

Senior Ken Dunneback, Juniors Steve Quenneville, Matt Walter and Ron Smedley are experienced and talented runners. Young has also been impressed with the emergence of freshman Rob Holloway.

"He's pretty decent. He may crack our lineup and that's not easy to do," Young said.

Young's biggest concern is how his team will react to the pressure of being No. 1.

"There aren't going to be many strong tests for us in the area," he said. "But there are four or five teams in the state who are very tough. We'll have to see how we fare against those teams. We open on Sept. 6 at the West Bloomfield Invitational. That'll be a real good test for us."

JOHN BARRETT's girls team is equally optimistic.

"Talent-wise, this is the year," he said. "If we are going to do it, we better do it this year."

Like the boys, the girls team has deepened its talent pool. Senior Nicole Jelley was the No. 1 runner for the team last year. This year, she may be joined at the top by senior Leslie Martin and junior Bonnie Stecker.

"I think Nicole is a little nervous," Barrett said. "She may not be the No. 1 all the time. Martin and Stecker will be right there and then there's five more following them."

Seniors Anna Quenneville and Julie Trunk, Junior Judy McKeever and three talented freshmen, Margaret Martin, Jennifer Kiel and Amy Trunk give Farmington a formidable lineup.

"We are very excited about this year," Barrett said. "We're looking at Farmington winning a lot of big meets, both sides. Two state championships? That would be very nice."

#### NORTH FARMINGTON

Paul Welch is beginning his second year at the helm of the Raiders' boys cross country team. Last year the team placed 11th in the Western Lakes — with All-Area runner Kirk Armstrong.

This year, there is no Armstrong. But there are 16 eager young men willing to make the Raiders competitive.

"We hope to be better than last



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Nicole Jelley shouldn't have to run all alone at the front of the Farmington pack this season. Her teammates have vastly improved, making

the Falcons early favorites in the Western Lakes title chase.

year," Welch said. "We've got the pack, but we lost our No. 1. It looks like our pack will run under

18 minutes." Sophomore Jeff Simpson, junior Tom Harnden and seniors

Dave Cline and Todd Mulberger should head the pack. Others in-

Please turn to Page 2

## All-Americans



Al Stebbins (left) and Chris Inch have the Farmington boys team thinking seriously about a state championship this season.

## Local kickers fight for respectability

By Bill Parker  
staff writer

The Livonia School District has been the Observerland powerhouse in boys soccer since Hector was a pup. But just as sure as Hector has grown old and new pups have invaded his turf, new soccer teams have sprung up and are slowly but surely creeping in on the Livonia dynasty in boys soccer.

Soccer programs in the Farmington School district are on the upswing; and improving with age. Just two short years ago there wasn't a boys varsity soccer team in Farmington with anything closely resembling a winning record. Last year, however, along with the implementation of a junior varsity program, North Farmington broke into the winning spirit with a 10-3-2 record while Farmington was just one game under a winning season with a 6-7-2 mark.

Heading into the 1986 campaign Farmington coaches are optimistic and players' attitudes are running high.

"Livonia has been tough for a long time but we're starting to catch up," said Ed Bartram head coach of the Farmington Falcons. "Our skill level is improving each year."

Cathy Cole, coach of the North Farmington Raiders, agrees.

"The JV program has really helped develop the Farmington schools to be better able to compete with Livonia a Plymouth schools," said Cole. "We've developed to become a team in their sides because we can compete with these teams now on an even level."

With the beginning of the '86 season just around the corner the following is a pre-season glimpse of the three Farmington School Districts' boys soccer teams.

#### NORTH FARMINGTON

With the loss of 11 of last year's 22 players there will be plenty of new faces when the Raiders take the field this season. Gone from last year's squad are all-state goalie Dennis

#### soccer

McCarthy (Westpoint); all-state honorable mention defender Paul Najor (Central Michigan); and all-league midfielder Karston Pelton.

Returning to action to help fill these holes are senior midfielder Zachary Biem, an all-league selection last season; sophomore midfielder Alastair Haddock, another all-league selection last year; and senior forward Monty Najor, also an all-league selection in the '85 season.

Cole is also excited about the acquisition of a couple of transfer students whom she feels will fit nicely into the program.

John Houser, a sophomore from Cranbrook will see duty as a midfielder for the Raiders this year while Craig Nome, fresh from Minnesota, will fill the net for the North squad.

"(Nome) will give us some strength. He's big, quick and very intimidating in the net," said Cole.

As in the past, Cole is stressing conditioning for the Raiders. She also said her team has a very good attitude and feels the midfielders will be the strength of the squad this season.

Cole said that the pre-season goals for her team were to surpass the 500 mark, to be a contender in the league and to do well in the state tournament.

As far as the league competition Cole feels there will be a tough competitive race.

"Stevenson (returning state champs) lost quite a few players to graduation. I don't think they will have the size they had last year but I'm sure they still have the talent," said Cole. "Churchill should be competitive. Canton and Salem, now that they have a JV program, should also stack up and we will be competitive too," she said.



RANDY BORS/staff photographer

Steadily, the soccer talent level has increased at the three Farmington public schools (Farmington, Harrison and North).

#### FARMINGTON

The Falcons lost just six members of last year's team and coach Ed Bartram is looking for big things from his predominantly senior/junior team.

"I feel pretty good about the season," said Bartram. "With our attitude and the skill of the players coming up we could have a successful season."

The biggest losses from the 1985 squad are Jerry Potter, All-Area forward; Chris Hackman, All-Area center; and Jim Mlasar second team All-Area center/fullback.

Top returners include senior forward/halfback Tom Gammeter, junior halfbacks Tom Hanson and Tom Krupa, and junior fullback Kyle

Harder. Junior forward Steve Lee, up from last year's JV, is also expected to contribute to the team.

"Steve scored quite a few goals for the JV last year, and we hope he can fill in with some scoring potential for us," said Bartram.

The Falcons aren't in a position to storm the league quite yet but Bartram feels they have a legitimate shot at a winning season.

"We have to realize that we have a real tough schedule. The Western Lakes is a very tough division but it's starting to even out," said Bartram. "Ideally I'd like to see us 8-6 at the end of the season. All we have to do is keep growing and developing."

With a little bit of time and continuing growth in the boys' soccer program at Farmington the year of the Falcon may be just around the bend.

Still, the teams lag behind the powerful Livonia and Plymouth-Canton schools.

#### FARMINGTON HARRISON

First year coach Glen Breuhan is bringing a winning attitude to the Farmington Harrison Hawks. Breuhan coached last year at class D Alex Monosogian in Southfield and piloted that team to a 13-2-2 overall record and rankings as high as second in the state.

Since the Hawks lost just two members of last year's team to graduation the '86 squad is loaded with experienced players.

Top prospects include junior striker Craig Baley, all-league honorable mention; senior midfielder Eric Wise, all-league honorable mention; and junior goalie Gary Wegner, all-league honorable mention. Junior Scott Kay, a first year player also

looks promising at the right wing position.

"The team looks very good," said Breuhan. "We seem to be communicating very well and working as a team. Our goaltending and our midfielders look real strong."

"Due to a drop in enrollment we're actually a B school playing in a tough A league. For us to have a successful season would be to have a 500 mark in the league," said Breuhan. "I think it will be tough but I think we can do it with teamwork and an all out effort from all the players."

Brehuan is stressing communication as a number-one priority this year. With a little luck and a little communication the Hawks may be the local spoiler of the 1986 boys' soccer season.