

Mercy's Kirkland quits after dispute

By Chris McCooley
staff writer

Bob Kirkland, the man who built the Farmington Hills Mercy cross country and track programs and molded them into consistent winners, has resigned in the wake of a dispute with the school's administration.

"I guess I'm very hurt. I started the program, and I've been there for 12 years," Kirkland said. "I was looking for some commitment from the administration, and it just wasn't there."

According to both Kirkland and two school officials, Kirkland issued an ultimatum to the administration. He wanted both a raise in pay and an adjustment in the school's security policy to allow his runners some additional hall space to run in during the winter months. If those requests weren't met, he would resign.

His requests weren't met.

KIRKLAND WAS angry that first-year swim coach Paul Schroeder was given a starting salary of \$1,500. Kirkland was paid \$1,000 to coach cross country and another \$1,200 to coach track and field.

Mercy athletic director Ellen Sekerak explained the situation this way: "There are just so many factors involved here. There are many reasons why the swim coach was paid what he was, and it is nobody's business except the school's and Paul's."

"No. 1, there was \$1,500 in the swim budget for a coach. We were trying to hire an assistant swim coach, and the assistant would have been paid out of that \$1,500. It turned out that we couldn't find an assistant, and I didn't want to lose the money we had in the budget."

Sekerak also said there was a difference in the responsibilities of a swim coach as compared with a cross country coach. The swim season runs from late August through Dec. 4. Swim coaches also hold prac-

tice sessions twice a day, before school and after school, throughout the season. The cross country season begins in late August and runs through Nov. 1.

BOTH SEKERAK and associate principal Will Gervais said that the salary structure for coaches at Mercy needs revisiting.

"We are looking into the salary structure right now," Gervais said. "It needs to be reworked."

Said Sekerak: "We know our structure isn't perfect right now. The scale needs to be revamped, no question about it. We have been working on a more equitable plan."

As for the building security policy: As a security precaution, certain hallways within the school are chained off after 4:30 p.m. Because there is no track at Mercy, Kirkland often used those halls to train his teams. He wanted a key to unlock the hallways.

The administration chose not to alter its security policy.

ALTHOUGH NEITHER Sekerak nor Gervais would get specific, both said there were other factors involved in accepting Kirkland's resignation.

"He came in with an ultimatum and his demands weren't met," Sekerak said. "It's not always a good tactic to put demands on people, to pin people to the wall."

Kirkland agreed that he has had a history of ruffling the administration's feathers. He has been an outspoken critic of what he perceives as the school's tendency to build up the ultra-successful basketball program at the expense of all other athletic programs at Mercy.

"They kept telling me that there were other things involved, but they would never tell me what the 'other' things were," Kirkland said. "I know I am not the most diplomatic person in the world. I mean, I have gone to them many times with my complaints. I'm still reeling from all

this, and I'm not ready to handle the emotional side of it. I'm upset at Mercy. I feel like there must have been somebody's toes that I have stepped on."

ACCORDING TO Gervais, the administration had made a concerted effort to establish a total athletic program at Mercy.

"That's part of the reason we hired Ellen Sekerak (the school's first full-time athletic director)," Gervais said. "We had a meeting with all of the teams last fall. We told the kids that we were sorry if we had placed cross country and track and some of the other sports on the back burner."

"We told them our plans to build a strong athletic program at Mercy. We made plans to hold special pep rallies for the other sports and things of that nature. But at the same time, we didn't want to detract from a program like the basketball program, which brings the school so much positive publicity and school pride."

Apparently, Kirkland first approached the administration three weeks ago. After his requests were denied and his resignation was accepted, he asked to be reinstated as cross country coach. On Monday, his request was denied.

Kirkland won the Catholic League track and field championship three times in 12 years. He also won one Class A regional track championship.

Pioneer officials fear worst in cross country eligibility case

By Chris McCooley
staff writer

Assistant superintendent of Ann Arbor public schools Willey Brownlee said Wednesday he had "reason to believe that one of our students may have been ineligible" when they ran cross country for state Class A champion Ann Arbor Pioneer last fall.

Brownlee, as a legal precaution, would not release the name of the student in question. But sources close to the situation verified that the student was former Plymouth Canton runner Rachel Mann.

Mann, who ran track at Canton last spring, transferred to Ann Arbor Pioneer prior to the fall season. She was the fifth best runner for

Pioneer at the state meet Nov. 1.

Brownlee released his statement Wednesday after meeting with Larry Dishman and several members of the Ann Arbor administration, including Pioneer principal Milo White. Dishman, the district's coordinator of athletics and a supervisor within the city's parks and recreation department, recently completed an in-house investigation of the Pioneer cross country program.

Brownlee said he would be forwarding the information to the Michigan High School Athletic Association and asking for further guidance on the matter.

FRED SIBLE, an assistant director with the MHSAA, said that if

Mann was officially declared ineligible, Pioneer would have to vacate its state championship. The title would remain vacant.

"We have talked on the phone (with Pioneer) I don't know how many times," Sible said. "We are waiting for them to submit something in writing."

Sible said that if Mann moved from Canton to the Pioneer district over the summer she would be eligible under the state rules.

Brownlee said the school district will continue to gather facts from "the person in question" and from cross country coach Bryan Westfield. He plans to send written data to the MHSAA within the next two weeks.

Help the Goodfellows

Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit
P.O. Box 44444
Detroit, MI 48244-4444

Dear Goodfellows:
Enclosed is my check payable to The Goodfellow Fund of Detroit to help ensure that "no child goes without a Christmas."

Name: _____

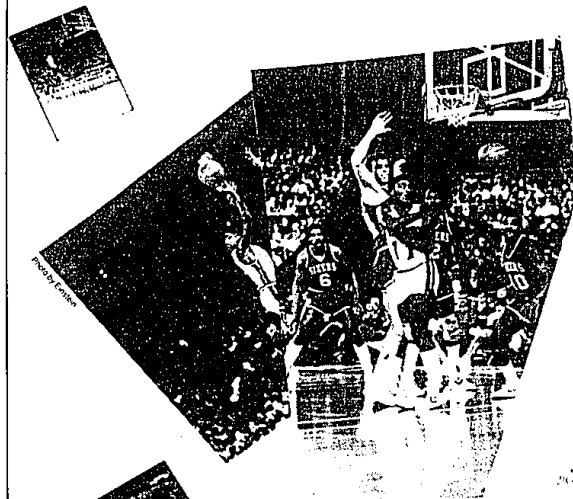
Address: _____

Donation: _____



The Goodfellow organization is strictly voluntary, so all funds collected go to needy children. Help make this Christmas a happy one. Please fill out the accompanying coupon and make a contribution. Thank you!

TAKE A SHOT AT BEING A DETROIT PISTONS PHOTOGRAPHER!



Arbor Drug Stores, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and the Detroit Pistons are teaming up to give you a chance to be an honorary Pistons photographer for a night! Enter to win at any Arbor store...no purchase is necessary. There'll be two winners every month and each winner will enjoy a pre-game dinner with the coaches and press, plus four free tickets to the game! All winners will also qualify for the grand prize: a free trip to a 1987 Championship Series Game! Hurry into Arbor today and you could be a "big shot" on the basketball court real soon!

Arbor Drug Stores, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and the Detroit Pistons are teaming up to give you a chance to be an honorary Pistons photographer for a night! Enter to win at any Arbor store...no purchase is necessary. There'll be two winners every month and each winner will enjoy a pre-game dinner with the coaches and press, plus four free tickets to the game! All winners will also qualify for the grand prize: a free trip to a 1987 Championship Series Game! Hurry into Arbor today and you could be a "big shot" on the basketball court real soon!



DELTA 12" VARIABLE SPEED WOOD LATHE

OUTSTANDING VALUE!
• 12" x 36" bed
• 1/2 HP motor
• 40" x 27" table with extension
• 25" top capacity for 1/2" B&B
• Jet Lock self-aligning
• 10 speeds
• \$229
• \$249
• \$269
• \$289
• \$309
• \$329
• \$349
• \$369
• \$389
• \$409
• \$429
• \$449
• \$469
• \$489
• \$509
• \$529
• \$549
• \$569
• \$589
• \$609
• \$629
• \$649
• \$669
• \$689
• \$709
• \$729
• \$749
• \$769
• \$789
• \$809
• \$829
• \$849
• \$869
• \$889
• \$909
• \$929
• \$949
• \$969
• \$989
• \$1009

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

The New Delta 14" Bench Drill Press

Only \$189

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

RENT A PIANO

WURLITZER MUSIC CENTER
Southland Shopping Center
Taylor, MI
Phone: 287-4480

FANTASTIC OPEN HOUSE SAVINGS ON DELTA MACHINERY IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Delta 10" Contractor's Saw

\$100 Rebate

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA 12" VARIABLE SPEED WOOD LATHE

OUTSTANDING VALUE!
• 12" x 36" bed
• 1/2 HP motor
• 40" x 27" table with extension
• 25" top capacity for 1/2" B&B
• Jet Lock self-aligning
• 10 speeds
• \$229
• \$249
• \$269
• \$289
• \$309
• \$329
• \$349
• \$369
• \$389
• \$409
• \$429
• \$449
• \$469
• \$489
• \$509
• \$529
• \$549
• \$569
• \$589
• \$609
• \$629
• \$649
• \$669
• \$689
• \$709
• \$729
• \$749
• \$769
• \$789
• \$809
• \$829
• \$849
• \$869
• \$889
• \$909
• \$929
• \$949
• \$969
• \$989
• \$1009

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

The New Delta 14" Bench Drill Press

Only \$189

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

The New Delta Bench Grinders

6" SALE \$49.00
8" SALE \$74.00

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA 12" VARIABLE SPEED WOOD LATHE

OUTSTANDING VALUE!
• 12" x 36" bed
• 1/2 HP motor
• 40" x 27" table with extension
• 25" top capacity for 1/2" B&B
• Jet Lock self-aligning
• 10 speeds
• \$229
• \$249
• \$269
• \$289
• \$309
• \$329
• \$349
• \$369
• \$389
• \$409
• \$429
• \$449
• \$469
• \$489
• \$509
• \$529
• \$549
• \$569
• \$589
• \$609
• \$629
• \$649
• \$669
• \$689
• \$709
• \$729
• \$749
• \$769
• \$789
• \$809
• \$829
• \$849
• \$869
• \$889
• \$909
• \$929
• \$949
• \$969
• \$989
• \$1009

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

The New Delta 14" Bench Drill Press

Only \$189

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

DELTA
"2700 LIST
NOW \$1399.00
Limited Quantities

MARSH POWER TOOLS
20579 Middlebelt • Livonia
W. Side of Middlebelt, 1 Bldg. S. of 8 Mile 476-7744
THIS WEEKEND ONLY FRI. 9 am-9 pm Dec. 12th, SAT. 9 am-5 pm Dec. 13th

THE TWELVE TWICE-WEEKLY
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS



ARBOR
DRUG CENTER
A NEW KIND OF DRUGSTORE

TWA
Thomas Cook Travel U.S.A.
123 North Main Street, Detroit, MI 48226