

Sports

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RANDY DONG/Staff photographer

Amy Frontier helped Farmington gain its first Wednesday during the city meet at the Farmington Training Center.

Raiders lock on to city gymnastics title

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Farmington Harrison finished dead last in Wednesday's Farmington City Gymnastics Meet at the Farmington Training Center.

Afterward, the hardly despondent Hawk gymnasts formed a huge circle on the floor exercise mat and performed a nice little song and dance routine.

"We have a lot of fun," said Harrison coach Linda Perkins. "If it wasn't for that we'd have a tough time keeping our sanity around here."

Having fun is what the city meet is all about. In terms of gritty-your-teeth athletic competition, it's about as low-keyed as it'll ever get.

"Everybody gets along real well on the three teams. It makes it more enjoyable meet," said Farmington coach Mary Beth Schornhorst. "The girls all root for each other and nobody is really out for blood. It's a much more relaxed atmosphere."

THAT'S NOT to say, however, that the meet lacked top-notch performances. Five 9.0 or better scores were recorded, and North Farmington scored a lofty 136.20 to win the meet. Farmington notched 115.15, its first state qualifying team score in three years. Harrison, competing without its second-leading scorer Tracey Solomon, scored 111.40.

Funny thing. About the only person who wasn't totally satisfied with the meet was the coach of the winning team.

"Honestly, I'm very surprised that we scored that high," said North coach Jeff Dwyer. "I thought we were sloppy. If we are to have any chance at all of winning the state meet, we have got to get to

gymnastics

FARMINGTON CITY
Wednesday at Farmington Training Ctr.

Team results: 1. North Farmington, 136.20; 2. Farmington, 115.15; 3. Farmington Harrison, 111.40.

All-around: 1. Lucine Toroyan (NF), 35.70; 2. Kim Heller (NF), 35.60; 3. Sharon Lawson (FH), 35.50; 4. Kara Karhu (NF), 33.45; 5. Amy Frontier (F), 31.45; 6. Jackie Daly (F), 30.45.

Vault: 1. Kim Heller (NF), 8.4; 2. Kara Karhu (NF), 8.35; 3. Jackie Daly (F), 8.3; 4. Sharon Lawson (FH), 8.15; 5. Amy Frontier (F), 8.0; 6. Lucine Toroyan (NF), 7.9; 7. Kara Karhu (NF), 7.8; 8. Amy Frontier (F), 7.75.

Uneven Bars: 1. Lucine Toroyan (NF), 9.35; 2. Sharon Lawson (FH), 9.1; 3. Kara Karhu (NF), 8.9; 4. Kim Heller (NF), 8.8; 5. Amy Frontier (F), 8.7; 6. Jackie Daly (F), 8.6.

Balance Beam: 1. (tie) Kim Heller (NF) and Lucine Toroyan (NF), 8.85; 2. Sharon Lawson (FH), 8.75; 3. Jackie Daly (F), 8.6; 4. Amy Frontier (F), 8.5; 5. Kara Karhu (NF), 8.4; 6. Amy Frontier (F), 8.3; 7. Kara Karhu (NF), 8.2; 8. Amy Frontier (F), 8.1; 9. Jackie Daly (F), 8.0; 10. Kara Karhu (NF), 7.9; 11. Amy Frontier (F), 7.8; 12. Kara Karhu (NF), 7.7; 13. Amy Frontier (F), 7.6; 14. Jackie Daly (F), 7.5.

Floor Exercise: 1. Kim Heller (NF), 8.1; 2. Lucine Toroyan (NF), 8.0; 3. Kara Karhu (NF), 7.9; 4. Sharon Lawson (FH), 7.8; 5. Amy Frontier (F), 7.7; 6. Jackie Daly (F), 7.6.

140. That number has been agreed upon by a couple of coaches. We have to clean up our routines if we are going to reach 140. But, you know, it's mid-season. There is a long way to go."

The meet showcased North Farmington's talented trio: senior Lucine Toroyan, freshman Kim Heller and senior Kara Karhu. Toroyan and Heller finished 1-2

all-around with 1 separating them. Toroyan (35.70 all-around) won on uneven parallel bars (9.35), was second on balance beam (8.85) and floor exercise (8.9) and took fifth on vault (8.8). Heller (35.60 all-around) scored a good-sized crowd with a 9.4 performance on vault. She also won beam (8.85) and floor (9.1) and was fourth on bars (8.25).

Karhu was fourth all-around with a 33.45. She scored a second-best 9.35 on vault and was third on both bars (8.3) and floor (8.8).

SHARON LAWSON had a strong meet for Harrison. Despite performing on a gimpy ankle, Lawson placed third all-around with a 35.50. She earned a 9.1 on bars, an 8.75 on vault, an 8.25 on beam and an 8.25 on floor.

"I thought all our kids had a nice effort tonight. They did a nice job," said Perkins.

The surprise of the meet, though, was the Falcons.

"I think part of it was the complete return of Jackie Daly and another part is that all the girls seemed to put more effort into it tonight," said Schornhorst. "We are really excited about hitting 115."

Jackie Daly, All-Area performer last year, competed in all four events for the first time this season and scored a sixth-best 30.45. She was third on vault with an 8.9 and tied for fourth on beam with North's Cindy Tjian with a 7.85.

But the Falcons' top scorer was freshman Amy Frontier. She earned 31.45 all-around, with an 8.5 on vault, 7.55 on bars, 7.65 on beam and 7.75 on floor.

"Now that we have everyone healthy, I think we'll be able to pick up the three other qualifying scores," Schornhorst said. "They've done it once. They know they can do it again."

MHSAA strips Pioneer of title

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

A high school state championship has been forfeited for the first time in the 63-year history of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

Ann Arbor Pioneer has notified the MHSAA that it will vacate the Class A girls cross country state championship it won last fall. It will also forfeit seven dual meets, its South Central League championship and its Class A regional title. The state championship will remain vacated.

"The Michigan High School Athletic Association has ruled that an ineligible Ann Arbor Pioneer High School student participated in some of the women's cross country meets during the fall semester of the 1986-87 school year," said a news release issued by assistant superintendent of Ann Arbor public schools Wiley Brownlee Friday.

Although neither the school district nor the MHSAA would release the name of the ineligible team member, sources close to the situation have repeatedly verified that the student was former Plymouth Canton runner Rachel Mann.

In the news release, Pioneer principal Milo White stressed that the situation "was not the fault of the student team member."

MANN, WHO earned All-Area honors as a sophomore at Canton, transferred to Pioneer last summer. Here are the circumstances that induced the Ann Arbor district to conduct an in-house investigation of the Pioneer cross country program:

- Mann and one parent took up temporary residence in the home of a family friend within the Ann Arbor Pioneer attendance area during the summer months. The Manns were waiting for their own Ann Arbor home to become available.

- When the Manns did establish permanent residence, it was in the Ann Arbor Huron attendance area.

The in-house investigation was conducted by Larry Dishman, the district's coordinator of athletics and a

supervisor within the city's parks and recreation department. The investigation verified Mann's situation and concluded that there was "reason to believe" she was ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletics last fall.

A week ago Friday, Brownlee met with Jack Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. Brownlee submitted the results of the investigation.

"Basically, I confirmed the findings and conclusions that they made," Roberts said Friday. "And then I applied the conclusions to the regional and state championships."

WHEN ASKED to explain exactly why Mann was ruled ineligible, Roberts said: "She did not move into the Ann Arbor Pioneer attendance area with persons she had been living with. She had a brief residence with one parent in the home of a friend in the Pioneer district. When they did establish a permanent residence in the Ann Arbor district, it was in the Huron attendance area."

Mann has since received an academic waiver from the district to attend Pioneer, even though she lives within the Huron attendance area. According to Roberts, Mann will be eligible to compete on the Pioneer track team this spring.

"At the start of the second semester (which was Jan. 1), she will become eligible," Roberts said. "She will have attended Pioneer for one full semester and our rules allow that she can become eligible even though she lives outside the attendance area."

The district's news release said: "Superintendent of schools Richard Benjamin deeply regrets the pain that this affair will cause the student, the team members and the family. Steps have been identified which will help avoid similar problems in the future."

The release also said that the district had no plans to appeal the ruling of the MHSAA. Although sources indicated that the Mann family and Pioneer cross country coach Bryan Westfield have hired attorneys. It is believed the two parties will take legal action against the school district in an attempt to overturn the deci-

North pounds Falcons

Comfortable.

That's something cross-town rivalries rarely are. When basketball teams from Farmington and North Farmington battle, neither coach has a chance to feel overly confident.

Usually, Friday night at Farmington was a different story. North took control shortly after the opening tip and was never really challenged in rolling to a 48-32 victory.

The win boosted the Raiders to 4-5 overall and 3-5 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. Farmington fell to 1-9 overall and 1-7 in the WLAA.

North coach Tom Negoshian would never admit it — he wouldn't even suggest such a thing — but by the midpoint of the second quarter his team was in command. The Raiders led 16-9 after one quarter and 31-16 at the half, and Farmington never got within 10 in the second half.

North was in enough control that Negoshian was able to experiment. "Our kids did a pretty good job," said the North coach. "We were

basketball

pressing, running some half-court traps and zones. We thought, after the last few weeks, we had to change up our defenses a little more.

"We want to score off our defense more and tonight, we did."

The Raiders' scoring was balanced, with Rick Karcher getting 11, Bill Green 10, Rob Knapp nine and Chuck Howard eight. Brandon London was Farmington's high scorer with six points.

HARRISON 61, W.L. WESTERN 52: Two school records, a fast start and a scary, too-close-for-comfort finish — yup, the Farmington Harrison fans got their money's worth when the Hawks hosted Walled Lake Western.

Harrison (5-5 overall, 4-4 in the WLAA) sped to an 18-6 lead after one quarter, thanks in part to Brad Ridgeway's six points. Western cut it

to nine (30-21) at the half, but the Hawks upped their lead to 46-33 after three periods.

The Warriors (3-8 overall, 3-7 in the WLAA) kept pressuring, however, and with 1:24 left pulled within two, 52-50. But a Mike Koroly steal and basket and two free throws by Brian Hoskins helped Harrison seal the victory.

Koroly got his name in the school record book by passing off for 14 assists, surpassing the single-game mark formerly held by Ken George, Mike Turquist and Dan Hickey. Koroly had seven points.

Ridgeway also earned a spot among Harrison's record-holders, despite playing only half a game. Ridgeway fouled out with 2:18 to go, but before he did he scored 19 points, grabbed seven rebounds and blocked five shots.

His five blocks gave him 53 for the season, surpassing the school record, which was 50, set by Mike Dempsey in 1984-85.

Scott Bissell netted 16 points and Chad Burgess had 11 for Harrison. Erik Hall's 23 points paced Western.

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