

Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/644-1101

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Hawks garner regional track honors

Harrison edges Eagles with victory in last event

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Farmington Harrison used a balanced team effort to win the Class B boys track and field regional Saturday at Linden High School.

The Hawks won three events, including two relays, and were second in three others.

Mark Bonasso won the discus at 138-11, and Craig Moritz and Chad Burgess were members of both the 3,200- and 1,600-meter relay teams.

Harrison needed a first-place finish from Moritz, Brian Soeder, Burgess and Aaron Yaverski in the final event — the 1,600 relay — to edge Hartland for the team title.

As Harrison coach John Schumacher expected, the meet evolved into a contest between the Hawks and Hartland, and Harrison enjoyed a 10-point lead going into the open 3,200 run, the next-to-last event.

BUT THE Eagles had qualified five runners for the 3,200, and they were able to push their way to the front after a strong showing in that race.

With the outcome of the meet hanging on the 1,600 relay, there was a lot of weight on the collective shoulders of his Harrison's foursome, and it handled the pressure well,

boys track

Schumacher said.

"They knew at that time, and we explained it to them," he said. "We told them to keep their poise and relax, and everything would work out for the best — and it did."

While the Hartland team was lagging behind in fifth place, the Hawks sprinted to a winning time of 5:29.58. The first-place finish enabled Harrison to edge the Eagles 79-76 1/4 in the final score.

While the 1,600 relay team was responsible for putting the cap on the Hawks' victory, there were many other key contributions along the way, and Harrison's team balance has been the key to its success all season, Schumacher said.

"IN EVERY MEET, that's what it's come down to — everybody pitching in and doing his part," he said. "And that's been the difference."

Besides talent, "another thing is we have a lot of committed athletes and a lot of leadership from the upperclassmen," Schumacher said, smiling.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Aaron Yaverski played a key role in Harrison's regional victory, taking second in the 100-meter dash and anchoring a relay win.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Eric Cole, shown clearing the pole vault bar in an earlier meet, netted third place to help the Hawks win their first regional title.

Falcons fare well in track

Farmington had five individual champions, including a double winner in Chris Inch, and captured third place in the Class A track and field regional at Southfield High School Saturday.

Inch, the Falcons' All-American distance runner, won the 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs.

He finished 12 seconds ahead of Birmingham's Sean Dain in the 1,600 with a 4:16.6 time. The same was true of his performance in the 3,200, in which he posted a 9:32.68 time.

In addition, the Falcons' Andrew Holliday captured the pole vault (12-7), Ed Sudzina was the best in the shot put (48-6), Brandon London jumped 6-3 to win the high jump and Al Stebbins was pushed by teammate London to win the 800 run in 1:54.95.

LONDON WAS SECOND in the 800 (1:56.78), and he also teamed up with Ron Snelled, Mark Longdon and Stebbins to give the Falcons first place in the 3,200

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Brandon London was a key contributor in Farmington's third-place regional finish, having a role in a relay win (3,200 meters), winning one individual event (high jump) and finishing second in another (800 meters).

MHSAA adopts more open policy

LET'S BE POSITIVE. After all, being negative all the time will get you nowhere — won't it?

True, the topic is challenging. In the past, there's been little to be positive about regarding the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). Image can be a problem for an association that must favor the majority in a society that loves to champion the minority.

Often it's been said — in this very column — that the MHSAA coldly, strictly interprets its rules without exception. No deviance allowed. Sorry.

But at least now the MHSAA, with executive director Jack Roberts in command nearly a year, is trying to reach out to its constituency. Roberts is more accessible, and the direction the MHSAA is heading is no longer a top secret, as it often seemed under Vern Norris' reign.

A newsletter regarding the MHSAA representative council's spring meeting May 3-6 outlined several topics discussed and adopted. Such information used to seep out slowly in Norris' tenure, so this new up-front policy should be applauded.

MIND YOU, not everything the



C.J. Risak

MHSAA did meet with approval. Timing still lags; sound ideas that deserve immediate attention are instead put on hold to be studied further, a process that often delays adoption for years. Still, few large organizations operate differently; conservative, wait-and-see attitudes usually prevail.

Of the policy changes that were adopted or will be studied, several should have significant impact on local sports.

The most noteworthy is the development of a master plan for officials. Specifics weren't mentioned, other than that the three-year proposal would work toward active recruitment of new officials and improve the registration, testing and rating methods of current officials.

Who could argue with such a poli-

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Raiders take step up in league at expense of Plymouth Canton

North Farmington improved to 12-5 in league softball by sweeping a crossover doubleheader from Plymouth Canton Friday, 14-1 and 13-6.

Kelly Coulson drove in three runs, Debbie Arnold and Renee Fishell two apiece in the first game.

Robyn Weatherford was the winning pitcher in the five-inning, six-run game. She struck out six and walked four.

Kim Schulte's second-inning single was Canton's only hit. The Chiefs scored in the first inning on two walks, a passed ball and an error.

Arnold was one of six North batters to get two hits in the nightcap. Her hits included a two-run homer.

KARA KARIHU and Coulson collected three RBI for the Raiders. Stefani Knapp two and Fishell one. Erica Zonder scored three runs. All five had two hits. Kelly McUmber had a triple and scored a run for the Chiefs.

Fishell pitched 5 1/2 innings to earn the win. She walked seven, struck out one and scattered four hits. Weatherford worked the final 1 1/2 innings. Debbie Smith went the distance for Canton.

North is 5-4 in the Lakes Division

softball

and 13-5 overall.

NORTHVILLE 7, HARRISON 3: Farmington Harrison finished in a second-place tie with Northville in Western Division softball after dropping a 7-3 decision to the Mustangs Tuesday.

The loss gives the Hawks a 6-4 division mark and puts their league record at 9-9.

Sophomore Amy Fremund tossed a five-hitter for Northville, getting one strikeout and a walk along the way.

Heidi Reyst, 10-7, was on the losing end of the decision. The Mustangs had nine hits. Reyst walked three and fanned two.

The Hawks, 10-9 overall, took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning.

Katie Doll scored from first base when Theresa Spizis laced a triple while the hit-and-run play was on. Spizis scored on a single by Keri Priekryn, who was two-for-three

with a double.

Fremund also played a major defensive role for the Mustangs, handling seven ground balls at her pitcher's position and catching two popups.

HARRISON 16-12, STEVENSON 2-8: Heidi Reyst drove in four runs and was the winning pitcher as Farmington Harrison crushed Livonia Stevenson in the first game of a softball doubleheader Friday.

Reyst was the winner again in the nightcap, and the Hawks took advantage of 11 walks given to them by Stevenson pitching to win the second game.

Harrison jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first inning of the opener when Aimee Katz and Reyst hit two-run singles, the latter's coming with the bases loaded.

Reyst, who was two-for-three, also had an RBI single and a bases-loaded walk, and Katz batted two-for-four.

The Hawks sent 14 batters to the plate and scored 10 runs in the second inning to turn the second game into a laugher. The Spartans only got out of the inning because a Harrison

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