

# Hawks capture regional honors

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gling out seniors Todd Lowy, Bonaso and Jason Tink for their contributions in the latter area.

By winning the regional, Harrison also remained unbeaten. The Hawks are 5-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association, 6-0 overall, and have won invitations to Novi and Milan.

Morris and Burgess teamed up with Chris Hart and Pat Runk earlier in the regional to capture the 3,200 relay in 8:12.37.

Harrison's second places came from Bob Conlon in the 110 high hurdles (15.64), Yaveraki in the 100 dash (11.18) and Wes Wood in the high jump (6-2). All three, in addition to the first-place finishers, automatically qualified for the state meet May 30 at Sturgis High School.

## Athletic organization making policy strides

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cy? What coach — particularly in basketball — didn't criticize officiating in the last year? A major problem is a lack of choice; there just aren't that many good officials. A bigger pool from which to pick has to help.

SUCH A POLICY should greatly enhance the MHSAA's image, too. It's a masterstroke in the PR department.

Soccer, which Roberts referred to as "our fastest-growing sport in Michigan," also got some much-deserved attention. Both the boys and girls seasons will be expanded to 13 weeks (the boys was 12, the girls 11). There will still be an 18 regular-season game limit, but — most importantly — teams will be restricted to three matches a week.

Some may oppose the three-games-per-week plan, but I don't. Earlier this season, rainouts and the scheduling of state tournament games forced Livonia Churchill and Livonia Franklin to play each other on consecutive days. Plymouth Canton played seven games in an eight-day stretch. That, to me, is severely hazardous to the student-athlete.

Another noteworthy change in boys soccer: The council voted to change the state tournament three-division classification from A, B-C and D to A, B and C-D. Class C Detroit Country Day should like that.

THE CLASS system was the object of council study in other areas, too. First, the MHSAA passed a rule which will allow Class B, C and D schools to play in a higher division for a minimum of two years.

Interesting. The rule is aimed at those schools whose designation fluctuates almost annually, but it could generate a different effect at Farmington Harrison, the only Class B school in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

The football-potent Hawks badly hurt the playoff chances of other WLAAs schools because of their Class

IN ADDITION, Harrison's Eric Cole was third in the pole vault (12-7), and Burgess was third in the 800 run (2:03.0).

The Hawks also had four fourth-place finishers: Brian Morris in the 800 run (2:04.1), Hart in the 1,600 run (4:34.0), Soeder in the high hurdles (15.8) and Wood, Bobb Beauchamp, Lowy and Conlon in the 400 relay (45.9).

Schumacher believes the 1,600 and 3,200 relay teams have the best chance of succeeding at the state meet, and he knows the competition will only get tougher.

"I think this will be the best showing Harrison has ever had in the state meet," he said. "There are areas where we have the possibility of placing, but we'll have to run seasonal races to do that."

B designation. Other member schools may pressure Harrison to accept a higher classification for the good of the league.

Secondly, the MHSAA announced it will conduct a study into requiring B, C and D schools to move up in classification if more than half the non-league football and/or basketball schedule is of a higher designation.

Again, Harrison — which plays an all-Class A football slate — would be affected. If the study spreads beyond football and basketball, Class B Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook's hockey and tennis teams could also come under scrutiny.

Other studies instigated by the MHSAA will weigh the merits of the optional conditioning week in football (some coaches would like to do away with it), a restructuring of the volleyball state tournament format, and new restrictions on lengths of seasons in all sports and summer participation.

MY COMMENT: Don't stop at changing the volleyball tournament (the plan under consideration would make it like the basketball tourney format). Baseball and softball, with qualifiers to get to pre-district games, which in turn qualify teams for districts, are badly in need of restructuring.

Coaches like this format because one great pitcher can carry a team deep into the tournament. But I don't see this as a true test of a team. Have all the schools assigned to a district play a three-day tournament and limit the number of innings a pitcher can pitch. That would sure simplify matters.

Everything considered, it was a constructive meeting for the MHSAA. There are other issues I'd like to see addressed (such as the ban on all-star games, which has forced the Observer & Eccentric to cancel its sponsorship of the annual girls soccer classic), but progress was evident.

And that's a step in a positive direction.



RANDY BORST/start photographer

Andrew Holliday provided an example of Farmington's team balance in the boys regional, winning the pole vault to complement the Falcons' strength in distance events.

# Farmington boys 3rd at Southfield

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relay. The Farmington foursome, in posting an 8:02.75 time, was nearly five seconds better than runner-up Birmingham Brother Rice.

All of the regional winners and runners-up will advance to the Class A state meet May 30 at Alma.

Besides the state qualifiers, the Falcons' Mark Weintraub was seventh in the 100 dash (11.49), Matt Walter sixth in the 1,600 run (4:34.88) and Smedley sixth in the 800 run (2:02.26).

## boys track

Farmington's 800 relay team placed fourth (1:33.21), and the 400 foursome was fifth (45.55).

Southfield won the meet with 111 points, and Redford Bishop Burgess was second with 97. The Falcons scored 89 points, but the field dropped off after that to fourth-place Brother Rice with 49.

## City schools boast 3 track champions

Farmington schools had three regional champions Saturday in Class A girls track and field competition at Southfield High School.

North Farmington's Donna Chubs captured first place in the 1,600-meter run with a 5:35.14 clocking. Farmington High's Anna Quenneville won the 600 run (2:26.9) and Kristi Devine the discus (106-2).

Quenneville and Devine led the Falcons to a fourth-place finish in the 16-team meet. North was sixth and Farmington Mercy filled the No. 9 spot.

Farmington's first-place finishes

## girls track

were supported by seconds in the 300 hurdles (48.32) and 3,200 run (12:07.23) by Lori Casaroli and Jennifer Kist, respectively.

In addition, Mercy's Nicky Kosteck was runner-up in the 100 hurdles with a 17.51 time.

The top two individuals or teams in every event automatically qualify for Class A state competition May 30 in Alma.

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