

## Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312



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(F1D)

## Others set to continue Falcon tradition

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

The obvious question to ask regarding the state of boys track at Farmington High School is simply: Is there life after Chris Inch and Al Stebbins?

The duo was among the top trackmen in the area for several years and paced the Falcons to an outstanding season a year ago.

Inch and Stebbins, who were named to the All-Oversland team in the 3,200- and 800-meter runs, respectively, also comprised half of the 3,200 relay team that won the Class A championship last June.

Inch now competes for the University of Illinois in cross country as well as track, and Stebbins does likewise for Ferris State College.

"There's always life after," said Farmington coach Dave Catherman, adding the other two members of that stellar relay team, Brandon London and Ron Smedley, are back for their senior seasons.

"THEY'RE GOING to be versatile and spectacular performers in a couple of events," Catherman added.

London is an excellent high jumper, too, and finished in the top 10 at last weekend's Huron Relays with a 6-foot-4 leap. He reached a personal best of 6-7 last year and was a regional champion.

Smedley, who excels in the middle distances, was on the distance medley relay that placed eighth at the Huron Relays. He ran the 1,200-meter leg and was joined by Tom Hunt (800), Steve Quenneville (1600) and Nick Malsel (400).

**"They (Ron Smedley at right, and Brandon London) are going to be versatile and spectacular performers in a couple of events."**

— Dave Catherman  
Farmington track coach



While the Falcons have always been good in the distance events and relays — largely due to assistant track coach Jerry Young's successful cross country program — Farmington will be more competitive in all relays, and Malsel's sprinting ability is a primary reason.

He competed for the Falcons as a sophomore, then moved to Indiana, where he qualified for the state championships in the open 400 and ran 49 flat. In addition, senior Bill Lindbert and junior Lamont Hardge give Farmington added sprint speed. London and Hunt specialize in the 800 run, Smedley's primary event is the 1600 and fellow cross country veterans Matt Walker, Brad Moore and Quenneville can run either the 1600 or 3200.

"WE MIGHT BE a little stronger as a dual-meet team, and weekends should be a lot of fun," Catherman said. "We should be able to put together a lot of relay combinations."

Whereas, the Falcons were primarily restricted to distance and medley relays at past invitational, they hope to expand their competitiveness into the sprint events.

"We have a very strong senior team and outstanding senior leadership in the running events," Catherman added. "Depth may be a problem again, but our front-line people are very strong."

He said it's too early to know who Farmington will have in its relays, and the likelihood of defending the 3200 crown, in which the Falcons set a state-meet record of 7:50.02, would

be pure speculation.

"It would be hard to find four (runners) who could run under two (minutes) flat anywhere," Catherman said.

"We ended up putting that (relay) together, because it looked like the one in which we had the best chance. We tried to wait as long as we could, to peak at the right time, and made a hard push in late May."

FARMINGTON might have as good a team overall, but it would be impossible for any team to think it could replace Inch and Stebbins, however.

"The real contribution Chris and Al made was not just last year but over the four years," Catherman said. "They did a lot for the team, and I'm very pleased to see them go down in school and state history like that."

"Their reputation is still lingering, but Mr. Young always seems to come up with somebody new." The Falcons have 23 distance runners on their 1988 team, he added.

Farmington has a 19-foot-plus long jumper in senior Jason Wright, who also runs both hurdle races. The Falcons have good depth in the pole vault with seniors Doug MacLeod, Matt Nichols and Joe Johnston having previously reached 11 feet.

The high jump will be "a real strong event for us" with Lindbert and senior Steve Miller, both 6-foot jumpers, backing up London.

Farmington graduated Ed Sudzina, one of the best shot putters in the area, but seniors Mike Neal and



RANDY BORST/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brandon London assumes the role of team leader in his senior season and once again will be one of the area's top athletes this spring.

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Basketball stars  
Catholic League dominates squadBy Brad Emons  
and Dan O'Meara  
staff writers

**T**HIS YEAR'S All-Observer boys basketball team has a distinct Catholic League Central Division flavor.

Six of the seven players chosen by the Observer sports staff for the 1987-88 team come from the rugged Central.

Class B state runner-up Redford Bishop Borgess placed three on the first team, all of whom are headed for Division I schools. Coach Mike Fusco, who guided the Spartans to a 24-4 season, was also named Observerland Coach of the Year for the second consecutive time. His record over six years is 97-47.

Redford Catholic Central, which finished 19-6 overall, also sports three players on the first team. The Shamrocks reached the Class A regional finals at Ferndale before losing to eventual state champion Detroit Cooley. They suffered three close losses during the regular season to

Borgess.

The other first team pick, Shawn Wimberly, hailed from Wayne Memorial.

Introducing the 1987-88 All-Area boys basketball team.

## FIRST TEAM

Parish Hickman, center, Redford Bishop Borgess: Making his second straight appearance on the All-Area team, the 6-foot-7 senior was the area's most dominating player, averaging 18.6 points and 8.5 rebounds per game.

The consensus All-Catholic League pick is one of five talented recruits from this state headed in the fall for Michigan State University.

"Parish developed into a multi-skilled player," said Borgess coach Mike Fusco. "This year he was able to do many more things both offensively and defensively."

Shawn Wimberly, guard, Wayne Memorial: The area's top scorer, Wimberly averaged 22.4 points per game. The 6-2, 165-pound senior also averaged 6.3 re-

bounds and 4.7 assists for the Zebras.

"I thought Shawn had as good a senior year as any player I've coached," said Chuck Henry. "Even though we went to him all the time, he was a very unselfish player."

Wimberly, also named to the All-Wolverine A League squad, is undecided about his college choice.

Brian Dugas, forward, Redford Catholic Central: The 6-3, 170-pound senior was a three-year starter and captain for the Shamrocks. This season he averaged 20.4 points per game, shooting 42 percent from the floor and 78 percent from the free throw line. The All-Catholic League pick also averaged 6.5 rebounds.

"Brian was a very heady player," said CC coach Bernie Holowski. "He never missed a practice or a game. He was very conscientious and dependable. Very coachable as well."

Bill Vitti, center, Redford Catholic Central: The 6-5, 205-pound senior held his own against some of the state's best big men including Parish Hickman, Mike Papulowski of DeltaSalle and Daniel Lyon of Detroit Cooley.

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Anthony Arrington  
Redford CCBrian Dugas  
Redford CCBill Vitti  
Redford CCDwayne Kelley  
Bishop BorgessDa Juan Smith  
Bishop BorgessShawn Wimberly  
Wayne MemorialOU shrugs off last year,  
eyes fresh start in '88By C.J. Risak  
staff writer

Last year was the first for Oakland University's reinstated baseball team. This season, the work to establish the Pioneers as a legitimate Great Lakes Conference team actually begins.

"I don't even want to consider last year as a building process," said new OU coach Paul Chapoton, who served as Rod Righter's assistant in 1987. "We have six people left from 21 on the team a year ago. We had to undo a lot of things and start over again."

Chapoton, who coached at Ulica High School for 12 years prior to last season's assistantship, did not want to elaborate further on last year's disaster, in which the Pioneers managed just four wins in 32 games. But perhaps Righter's official statement on his resignation was explanation enough.

Said Righter: "I didn't have the time to devote to being both a faculty member and baseball coach."

CHAPOTON TOOK over a team with almost no scholarship money remaining ("We have 10 percent of one scholarship left") and with little time left to recruit. Righter, an OU faculty member, also had little time

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY BASEBALL SCHEDULE	
MARCH — 30, Friday College (at Home), 1 p.m.	
APRIL — 2, Aquinas College (H), 1 p.m.	
3, at University of Detroit, 1 p.m.	
6, at Calumet College, 1 p.m.	
8, at Northwood Institute, 1 p.m.	
9, Wayne State (H), 1 p.m.	
10, at Grand Valley State, 1 p.m.	
16, at Saginaw Valley State, 1 p.m.	
17, at Hillsdale College (H), 1 p.m.	
19, at University of Toledo, 1 p.m.	
23, Ferris State (H), 1 p.m.	
24, Grand Valley State (H), 1 p.m.	
28, at Albion College, 1 p.m.	
30, at Wayne State, 1 p.m.	
MAY — 1, Saginaw Valley State (H), 1 p.m.	
2, at Northwood Institute, 1 p.m.	
5, at Calumet College (H), 1 p.m.	
7, at Ferris State, 1 p.m.	
8, at Hillsdale College, 1 p.m.	
11, at Grand Valley State, 1 p.m.	

to prepare for last season and it showed. When Chapoton took over, he received a stack of informational sheets on possible prospects — but too late to contact them.

He did manage to sign a pair of pitchers who could help OU reach its first goal: respectability.

Chapoton signed Pat Sadowski, a sophomore right-hander from Sterling Heights, and Scott Fennner, a freshman left-hander from Clio, are slated as starters entering the season. Sadowski played last season at

## baseball

Macomb Community College; Fennner is the team's lone lefty.

They join an almost completely rebuilt staff. Eight of nine Pioneer pitchers are new, the exception being sophomore right-hander Chris Foster from Rochester (Adams). Foster was better than his 0-8 record, 7.83 earned run average indicated.

Joining Sadowski, Fennner and Foster in the starting rotation will be junior Duane Moore of Oxford and freshman Scott Tucker of Grose Pointe, both right-handers. How freshman right-hander Jeff Dorfman of Southfield (Lathrup) will be used is yet to be determined, and is depended upon John Jacoby's status.

JACOBY, A JUNIOR right-hander from Saginaw, "throws hard," said Chapoton, but he currently has a sore arm. Chapoton wants to use Jacoby as his bullpen stopper, "but not if he can't throw as hard as we think he can."

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