

Veteran foursome key to N. Farmington hopes

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

North Farmington's hopes for the 1988 boys track season will center around a senior foursome, all of whom begin their fourth year in the sport.

Warren Johnson, Chad Henry, Doug Cohen and Tom Harnden are athletes the Raiders will count on to perform well in their areas of specialization.

Johnson, a sprinter and long jumper, stands out in the 400 meters, though he can run anything from the 200 to 800.

He will help in the relays and has turned in an early-season split time of 51.8 in the quarter. Johnson had a season best of 19.8 in the long jump a year ago.

Henry, who also participates in the relays, jumped 6 feet in the high jump last season, and second-year coach Rick Jones is hoping he'll have another one like that.

COHEN IS NORTH'S Jack-of-all-trades, according to Jones. He can run the sprint events, throw the shot put or carry the baton on a relay team.

"He's one of those kids who's fun to coach, because he'll do anything

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he's asked to do," Jones said. "Originally, he ran track because he thought it would help his football (career), but he's one who is always there."

Harnden is the key man in the distance events, specializing in the 1600. He was ill during the winter, however, and only recently resumed training.

"Hopefully, by the time we get to the middle of the season, he'll be back pretty close to form," Jones said. "I thought Tom had the potential to run 4:30, and I think he can this year."

The Raiders had lots of young middle distance and distance runners last year, and another year of experience should make North stronger in those events. Junior Jim Nader gives the Raiders two excellent runners in the 1600, and junior Jeff Simpson will be the team leader in the 3200.

Junior Zalm Cummalaj, a tackle in football and state qualifier at 198 pounds in wrestling, is out for track for the first time and will help North

in the shot put and discus.

"IT LOOKS LIKE he has good aptitude in the discus," Jones said. "Plus, he has the physical tools to be a decent shot putter. He has the potential to be in the mid-40s; he's strong with good explosive power."

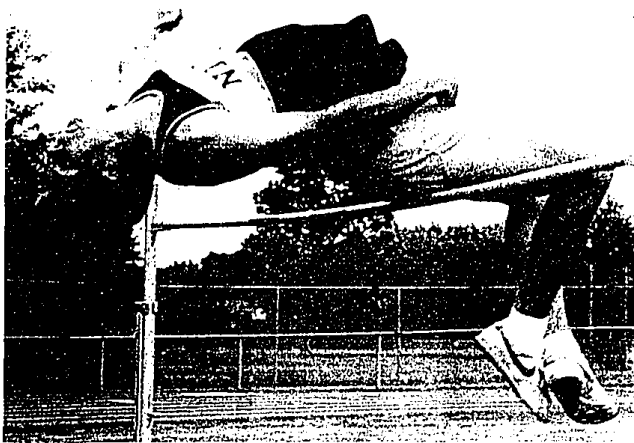
Jeff Jacobs, another football player and wrestler, is trying his hand at the shot put, too, and Craig Garczynski is another discus candidate. Jones also likes 6-foot-6 sophomore Eric Carlson's potential in the high jump.

Junior Jim Carrier will run the high and intermediate hurdles, and freshman Ty Richardson will try to compensate for injuries that have decimated the ranks of pole vaulters.

The Raiders were dealt preseason setbacks when Alan Ferreira suffered a broken collarbone in an auto accident, and Brad Armstrong broke a finger and injured a knee playing hockey.

Furthermore, sprinter Matt Suchecki is still bothered by a football-related knee injury.

"The numbers have increased, especially with the young kids," Jones said of this year's turnout. "The good thing is the kids are working hard and the attitude is good."



ART EMANUEL/Staff photographer

Chad Henry attempts to clear the high-jump seniors who comprise a nucleus of veteran track and field athletes at North Farmington.

Hawks anticipate successful season



Aaron Yaverski
Harrison sprinter

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Farmington Hills Harrison is expecting another successful year in boys track, and the Hawks have good reason to be optimistic.

Couch John Schumacher's team is loaded with many talented individuals, the majority of whom helped Harrison capture a Class B regional championship last year.

"The outlook is very good," Schumacher said. "We have a lot of good kids returning, and they're a hard-working, committed bunch. So we're looking forward to great things."

One event in which the Hawks should be extremely competitive is the high jump, where a trio of seniors have impressive credentials. Wes Wood, who was a regional runner-up, has jumped 6-4, and Brian Soeder and Bob Conlon have reached 6-2.

Soeder and Conlon also excel in the high hurdles, having the same best time of 15.2, which put them among the best in Observersland last year.

WOOD FIGURES to be the team leader in the intermediate hurdles, formerly the lows, and senior Rich Esker, junior Troy Soeder and sophomore Cabe Morpew provide depth.

track

Soeder is a jack-of-all-trades in the field events and gives the Hawks a quality competitor in the long jump, too. He has leaped 21-1 1/4 in the past, and sophomore Joe George, a cousin of former Harrison basketball star Ken George, could be the heir apparent.

In the weight events, the Hawks lost John Bonasso to graduation, but senior Mark Bonasso was a regional champ in the discus and qualified for state.

In addition, Harrison has senior Dave Gurke, George and sophomore Matt Conley and Cress Cove, a transfer from Colorado, to count on in either the discus or shot put.

Plus, Schumacher hopes to bring along "three super freshmen," a group that includes Blaso Sarcevic (whose older brother, George, holds the school record in the shot), Tony Shaib and Todd Lintyniemi.

If the Hawks have a weak event it is the pole vault, where they graduated three 13-foot-plus vaulters: Eric Cole, Eric Wise and Jason Tink.

HARRISON SHOULD be a force in the sprints with senior Aaron Yaverski leading the pack. He was second in the 100-meter dash at the regional, and he has personal bests of 10.8 in the 100 and 22.5 in the 200.

Junior Bob Beauchamp is another quality sprinter, and the 400 dash could be the Hawks' best sprint event with junior Marcus Mack, senior Brian Monahan and sophomore Ben DiClemente specializing in it. Mack didn't compete last season and will add much to this year's team, Schumacher said.

Junior Chad Burgess is Harrison's best in the open 800, having been clocked at 1:59.0 last year, and one of its top relay runners. He was on the 3,200-meter relay team that was eighth in the state.

The top distance men are junior Jeff Barringer, the team's top two-miler, and seniors Chris Hart and Pat Runk, both of whom can run any event from the 800 to 3200.

Falcons still strong team

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Todd Mason returns. Plus, the Falcons have sophomore Jason Gitting, last year's ninth-grade county champion in the shot and discus, coming up.

"WE ALWAYS seem to get good kids," Catherman said. "Some schools seem to come up with real good ones, and we'll have some real spectacular performers in the long sprints and middle distances."

"We have a nice tradition at our school, and we're eager to get it going and see what happens."

Southfield among best in relay meet

Southfield High School's boys track team placed seventh overall in the 34th annual Class A Eastern Michigan University Huron Relays held over the weekend in Ypsilanti.

Detroit Mumford and Lansing Sexton were first and second, respectively, with 55 and 46 points. Rochester placed 17th (12 points), followed by Troy (23rd), Bloomfield Hills Lahser (tie for 24th), Farmington (34th) and Birmingham Seabolt (tie for 39th).

Individually, Rochester's Dan Reddan and Southfield's Ricky Duncan placed one-two in the high jump with leaps of 6 feet 6 inches. Farmington's Brandon London was sixth (6-4), and Seabolt's Mike Nelson placed seventh (6-2).

Rochester distance standout Doug Goudie placed fifth in the 3,200-meter run with a time of 9:44.1. Walled Lake Western's Brian Grosso won the race with a meet-record time of 9:16.7.

Troy's Scott Player took fourth in the shot put with a toss of 51-10. Lahser's Jim Huff placed fourth in the 1,600-meter race with a time of 4:26.0, six seconds behind winner Nate Ford of Ann Arbor Pioneer.

Troy's 3,200-meter relay team placed fifth in 8:19.1, some 16 seconds behind Monroe which won with a meet record 8:03.5. Lahser was sixth and Farmington eighth in the distance medley relay.

SOUTHFIELD placed third in the 800-meter relay (1:33.8) and fourth in the 1,600-meter relay (3:28.0). Detroit Cooley won both races.

In the Class B meet, Orchard Lake St. Mary's placed a respectable ninth with 25 points and Farmington Harrison tied for 12th with 18 points. Detroit Country Day placed 15th overall with five points.

Joe Jefferson, a promising football and basketball player for St. Mary's,

won the long jump with a leap of 22-feet 1/4 inch. Teammate Marcus Relford, an all-star griddler slated to play with the University of Colorado this fall, placed second by mere tenths-of-a-second in the 55-meter dash in 8.6.

St. Mary's distance runner Tim Topolinski was third in the 1,600-meter run in 5:31.4. The Eagle 800-meter relay was fifth.

Detroit Country Day's Steve Mann placed fourth in the long jump with a leap of 20-10. Harrison senior Brian Soeder was seventh in the long jump (19-11 1/4) and third in the high jump (6-2). Bob Colon from Harrison was sixth in the 55-meter hurdle in 7.9.

Harrison's distance medley relay took fifth and the shuttle hurdle relay placed seventh.

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