

It's official! Falcons win meet

WLAAs athletic directors uphold original decision

By Dan O'Moara
Staff writer

girls track

Athletic directors from the Western Lakes Activities Association schools did what Farmington coach Bruce Brown believed was only the thing they could do.

That was to recognize the Falcons as the WLAAs champions in girls track and field.

The athletic directors met Monday to discuss the outcome of last Wednesday's league meet, which was suspended because of threatening weather with two events remaining. Farmington was ahead at that point and was awarded the title when the 12 coaches and referee Ed Gabrys voted to let the results stand.

Livonia Stevenson, which was second after the 200-meter dash, questioned the right of coaches and the most official to make WLAAs policy and requested the special ADs meeting.

PAUL CUMMINGS, the athletic director for the Plymouth-Canton School District, which was host for the meet, said the ADs voted to accept the decision made at the site, thereby making Farmington the winner.

Cummings cited two factors in the decision:

- The Michigan High School Athletic Association rule that says a season cannot be extended beyond the state meet. The state finals were Saturday.
- The games committee, consisting of all the head coaches and the referee, voted to terminate the meet and let the results stand.

"I thought we had done that the other night, and the ADs substantiated that," Brown said. "I felt good the ADs went along with it. We were the ones who had to stand out there in the rain."

"People say it's a tainted championship, but 10 years from now they'll come down to the trophy case and it will be in there. I certainly don't feel ashamed to have won it, that's for sure."

The Falcons finished with 108 points, Stevenson 103, Plymouth-Canton was third and Walled Lake Central a distant fourth. Defending champion Plymouth-Canton got fifth place.

The runner-up Spartans led 103-93 following the 800 run, but Farmington pulled ahead after Angle Forge scored 10 points by finishing second in the 800.

"I'd like to think if you're ahead by five going into the two-mile you've got a shot at winning it," Brown said. "Jennifer Kiel is pretty good money to have in the bank."

FORGE, BY virtue of her high finish in the 200 dash, had in effect the game-winning hit, and she also was third in the 100 and anchored Farmington's winning 800 and 400 relay teams.

"Anyone who has watched her get the baton on the anchor leg of a relay knows they're in trouble," Brown said. "She's one tough competitor."

"She has a hip problem that hurts her when she comes out of the blocks," he added, "so we don't usually run her in open events."

The Falcons have enjoyed continued success despite the loss of three outstanding sprinters in Amy Truk, Carrie Maler and Sue Gibson. They are members of Farmington's top-rated soccer team, which had conflicts with the track schedule as the state chased a possible state championship in soccer.

In their absence, Markko Usaba filled in and helped keep the sprint relays strong. Jennifer Reed, who took first in the 100, Umba, Nicole Tocco and Forge won the 800, and it was Reed, Shelli Gaul, Usaba and Forge taking first in the 400.

"We used her against Stevenson in the dual meet and got away with it, and I thought we could do it again in the conference meet," Brown said.

FARMINGTON'S other victories came from Julie Laton in the high jump and Gaul in the 100 hurdles. Gaul's victory was gratifying because it proved her first place at the regional was not a fluke, Brown said.

"She went head-to-head with all of them and beat them, and there were some pretty good hurdlers there," he said.

"There's always that question. (The regional time) was the fastest time she had ever run. In the dual, she screwed up her steps, and (Stevenson's) Lisa Christensen beat her. There had to be a question in her mind, but she put the hammer down and beat them."

Stevenson's 3,200 relay team of Susanne Moore, Jennifer Knapp, Jennifer Flander and Tracy Clark supported coach Paul Holmberg's faith in them by winning that event with the only sub 10-minute time of the race, 9:52.4.

"There was anything you could bet on. It was the two-mile relay, and they went out and got the best time in the area," Holmberg said. "They wanted to be the number one team in the area, and they did it that night."

Jessann Martin gave the Spartans first place in the shot put and second in the discus, and Christensen rebounded from a disappointment in the 100 hurdles to win the 300 contest.

CHRISTENSEN had a slim lead in the 100 hurdles, according to Holmberg, when she hit a hurdle late in the race and stumbled, dropping to third and ending up fourth.

"Lisa has won other races when someone else stumbled," Holmberg said. "Maybe it was her time. Coming back and win the 300 helped her get away from that meet feeling positive."

Clark also finished second in the 800, and Holmberg said he was glad he decided to put Pat Bagley in the 1,600. She usually runs the 3,200, but that and the 1,600 relay were the events that were not contested when the meet was stopped.

"It was one of the few times she was doubling," Holmberg said. "As it turned out, we didn't run the two-mile, and that would have meant, as a senior, she wouldn't have run in the league meet."

"I'm awfully glad I did put her in the mile. Otherwise, she wouldn't have had a chance to compete."

Salem had two individual winners in Tracey Livermore and Nikki Wygonko, who won the long jump and 200-meter dash, respectively. Livonia Churchill's Alyssa Belaire captured first place in the 400-meter run.



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer
Shelli Gaul crosses a hurdle on route to winning the 100-meter title at the WLAAs girls track and field meet, repeating her regional victory in that event.

"(Shelli Gaul) went head-to-head with all of them and beat them, and there were some pretty good hurdlers there . . . There's always that question. (The regional time) was the fastest time she had ever run. In the dual, she screwed up her steps, and (Stevenson's) Lisa Christensen beat her. There had to be a question in her mind, but she put the hammer down and beat them."

— Bruce Brown
Farmington track coach

WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION GIRLS TRACK MEET
May 31 at Plymouth Canton

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Farmington, 108 points; 2. Livonia Stevenson, 103; 3. Plymouth-Canton, 93; 4. Walled Lake Central, 81; 5. Plymouth-Canton, 51; 6. Farmington-Harrison, 50; 7. Livonia Franklin and North Farmington, 45 each; 8. Livonia Churchill, 33; 9. Westland John Glenn, 22; 11. Northville, 21; 12. Walled Lake Western, 17.

FINAL RESULTS:
100: 1. Gibson (W.L. Western), 1:35; 2. Martin (Stevenson), 1:37; 3. Murphy (Salem), 1:40; 4. Wobleski (Stevenson), 1:40; 5. Macko (Ply. Canton), 1:44; 6. Hix (W.L. Central), 1:46; 7. Sachs (Stevenson), 1:47; 8. Martin (Stevenson), 1:48; 9. O'Connell (Stevenson), 1:49; 10. O'Connell (Stevenson), 1:50; 11. O'Connell (Stevenson), 1:51; 12. O'Connell (Stevenson), 1:52; 13. O'Connell (Stevenson), 1:53; 14. O'Connell (Stevenson), 1:54; 15. O'Connell (Stevenson), 1:55; 16. O'Connell (Stevenson), 1:56; 17. O'Connell (Stevenson), 1:57; 18. O'Connell (Stevenson), 1:58; 19. O'Connell (Stevenson), 1:59; 20. O'Connell (Stevenson), 2:00.

Shot put: 1. Martin (Stevenson), 34-8; 2. Okunabua (Canton), 33-10; 3. Simon (Franklin), 31-7; 4. Hix (W.L. Central), 31-6; 5. O'Connell (Farmington), 31-5; 6. Gibson (W.L. Western), 31-5; 7. Jernvaga (Harrison), 31-3; 8. Sachs (Stevenson), 30-9.

High jump: 1. Lawton (Farmington), 5-3; 2. Spencer (Canton), 4-11 (lower record); 3. Rokicki (Church), 4-11; 4. (tie) Finley (John Glenn) and Grove (Stevenson), 4-10 each; 7. Gaid (Farmington), 4-8; 8. (tie) Finley (John Glenn) and Gary (Church), 4-8 each.

Long jump: 1. Livermore (Salem), 15-1; 2. Amburgey (John Glenn), 15-9; 3. Harzick (N. Farmington), 15-7; 4. Jensen (Franklin), 15-5; 5. Gabney (John Glenn), 15-5; 6. Rokicki (Church), 15-5; 7. Poucha (Salem), 15-4; 8. Fisher (N. Farmington), 15-2.

100-meter dash: 1. Flood (Farmington), 1:28; 2. Livermore (Salem), 1:31; 3. Forge (Salem), 1:32; 4. Kibsey (Salem), 1:33; 5. Caprick (W.L. Central), 1:34; 6. Sherman (Canton), 1:35; 7. Ewing (N. Farmington), 1:36; 8. Gaid (Stevenson), no time available.

200: 1. Wysocki (Salem), 2:15; 2. Forge (Farmington), 2:17; 3. Francis (W.L. Central), 2:18; 4. Brugger (Canton), 2:18; 5. Hakim (Harrison), 2:19; 6. Dean (Canton), 2:19; 7. Leland (Northville), 2:22.

400: 1. Delaire (Church), 1:05; 2. Cokerham (Harrison), 1:01; 3. Tocco (Farmington), 1:02; 4. Smith (N. Farmington), 1:02; 5. Magawick (Stevenson), 1:02; 6. Head (Northville), 1:02; 7. Leland (Northville), 1:03; 8. Gudum (Canton), 1:03; 9. Head (Northville), 1:03; 10. Head (Northville), 1:03; 11. Head (Northville), 1:03; 12. Head (Northville), 1:03; 13. Head (Northville), 1:03; 14. Head (Northville), 1:03; 15. Head (Northville), 1:03; 16. Head (Northville), 1:03; 17. Head (Northville), 1:03; 18. Head (Northville), 1:03; 19. Head (Northville), 1:03; 20. Head (Northville), 1:03.

800: 1. Johnson (W.L. Central), 2:32; 2. Clark (Stevenson), 2:32; 3. Kisinger (Northville), 2:34; 4. Gustafson (Franklin), 2:35; 5. O'Connell (Stevenson), 2:36; 6. Wan (N. Farmington), 2:36; 7. Holmberg (Northville), 2:38.

1,600: 1. Van (W.L. Central), 5:12; 2. Kiel (Farmington), 5:18; 3. Rives (N. Farmington), 5:20; 4. Moore (Stevenson), 5:22; 5. Smith (Canton), 5:22; 6. Bagley (Stevenson), 5:27; 7. Proce (W.L. Western), 5:30; 8. Janowski (Canton), 5:44.

3,200: Canceled because of inclement weather.

100 hurdles: 1. Gaul (Farmington), 1:54; 2. Harns (Salem), 1:59; 3. Bayer (Franklin), 1:59; 4. Christensen (Stevenson), 1:59; 5. Peters (Harrison), 1:59; 6. Denver (Church), 1:59; 7. Wotta (Salem), 1:59; 8. Fisher (Gibson), no time available.

300 hurdles: 1. Christensen (Stevenson), 4:52; 2. Bayer (Franklin), 4:52; 3. Chatterjee (Harrison), 4:52; 4. Peters (Harrison), 4:54; 5. Harns (Salem), 4:55; 6. Harns (Salem), 4:55; 7. Harns (Salem), 4:55; 8. Harns (Salem), 4:55; 9. Harns (Salem), 4:55; 10. Harns (Salem), 4:55; 11. Harns (Salem), 4:55; 12. Harns (Salem), 4:55; 13. Harns (Salem), 4:55; 14. Harns (Salem), 4:55; 15. Harns (Salem), 4:55; 16. Harns (Salem), 4:55; 17. Harns (Salem), 4:55; 18. Harns (Salem), 4:55; 19. Harns (Salem), 4:55; 20. Harns (Salem), 4:55.

400 relay: 1. Farmington (Reed, Gaul, Usaba and Forge), 5:14; 2. Salem, 5:20; 3. W.L. Central, 5:27; 4. Harrison, 5:31; 5. Stevenson, 5:32; 6. N. Farmington, 5:41; 7. John Glenn, 5:42; 8. Canton, 5:43.

800 relay: 1. Farmington (Reed, Usaba, Tocco and Forge), 1:41; 2. Harrison, 1:49; 3. Stevenson, 1:49; 4. Salem, 1:52; 5. Church, 1:52; 6. W.L. Central, 1:52; 7. Canton, 1:53; 8. Franklin, 1:53; 9. Canton, 1:53; 10. Canton, 1:53; 11. Canton, 1:53; 12. Canton, 1:53; 13. Canton, 1:53; 14. Canton, 1:53; 15. Canton, 1:53; 16. Canton, 1:53; 17. Canton, 1:53; 18. Canton, 1:53; 19. Canton, 1:53; 20. Canton, 1:53.

1,600 relay: Canceled because of inclement weather.

3,200 relay: 1. Stevenson (Moore, Knapp, Flander and Clark), 9:52; 2. Canton, 1:04:47; 3. N. Farmington, 1:06; 4. W.L. Central, 1:07:10; 5. Salem, 1:07:17; 6. Church, 1:02:23; 7. Farmington, 1:03:17; 8. Franklin, 1:03:20.

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