

## Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312

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## Falcons junior finishes on top at WB Invite

Redford Catholic Central and Brighton, two of the metro area's perennially outstanding cross country teams, were the Division III (largest school) winners of the 25th annual West Bloomfield Invitational Cross Country Meet held Saturday at Marshbank Park in West Bloomfield. There were three competitive divisions for both boys and girls.

Catholic Central won the 20-team boys meet with 100 points, finishing just ahead of Monroe with 118 points. Traverse City was third with 139, De La Salle fourth with 147 and Troy fifth with 156.

CC's Mike Sheridan placed first overall in the Division III race with a time of 16:48.2. John Rottenberk and David Eick were fourth and fifth, respectively, with times of 17:19.6 and 17:23.8.

In the Division III girls meet, Brighton dominated with 66 points. Traverse City was second with 132 points, followed by Clio with 144. Rochester Adams and Troy were ninth and 10th respectively. Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy was 14th and Troy Athens placed 15th.

Kristi Wink of Brighton won the girls race with a time of 20:52.7 and Monroe's Katie Woodruff was second in 21:01.4. Tracy Robinson of Adams was sixth in 21:14.7.

The Division II boys winner was Holly with 53 points and Milford Lakeland was second with 92 points. Farmington placed fifth and North Farmington seventh in the 19-team division.

The top individual finishers were Farmington's Ben Goba in 16:51.3, and Andover's Jon Fry in 16:56.6. Holly's Todd Hill was third in 17:01.4.

### cross country

More cross country, 2D

"He's one of the best in the state," said Farmington coach Jerry Young of Goba.

The Division II girls winner was host West Bloomfield with 64 points. Swartz Creek was second with 97 points while Farmington placed third with 98 points. North Farmington was seventh and Birmingham Seaholm 11th.

North Farmington's Lisa Rives was the top girls Division II winner in 20:07.2. Julie Banks of Ulca was second (20:27.3) while Jennifer Kiel of Farmington was third (20:47.7).

Stacy Abbott of West Bloomfield (fourth), Allison Dainoff Seaholm (seventh), Jennifer Derwinski of Farmington (eighth) and Amy Fidelman of West Bloomfield (ninth) were other local runners placing among the top 10.

The 19-team Division I boys race (smallest schools) was won by Sturgis with 60 points. Saline was second with 76. Joe Cronely and Brian Smith of Sturgis were the top two runners.

Marysville was the Division I girls winner with 70 points. Saline took second and Divine Child third. Bloomfield Hills Andover ninth and Livonia Ladywood was 15th.

Amy Ballant of Divine Child won in 21:11.



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Ben Goba was the individual winner in the Division II race Saturday at the West Bloomfield Invitational. The Falcons were fifth in the team standings.



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Jennifer Kiel gets a hug from coach John Barrett after setting a course record at Willis Park in Walled Lake Tuesday. See story on Page 2D.

## Burgess' grid debut gets passing grade

By C.J. Rissak  
staff writer

It didn't make any sense. Wayne State was attacking a team with one of the worst pass defenses around in 1988; opponents averaged nearly 200 aerial yards a game against Saginaw Valley State's porous defenders last season.

And the Tartars' battle plans were formulated around the suddenly popular run-and-shoot offense, a scheme that replaces the tight end and fullback with two additional wide receivers. The passing formation is supposed to result in a wide-open, high-scoring affair.

It's true that what happened last year hardly matters this year. But consider that two of the Cardinals' four defensive backfield starters against WSU had never started previously.

Add it all together, and it would seem to spell trouble — BIG trouble — for SVSU.

SO WHAT happened?

The Tartars' veteran quarterback, Mike Grennler, was a paltry seven-of-16 passing for 54 yards. WSU had just eight completions in 19 attempts for 63 yards in the game.

Which explains why SVSU won easily, 24-6, Saturday.

Experience, it seems, isn't everything. Chad Burgess is a perfect example. A Farmington Harrison graduate, Burgess has been in college about two weeks. In an era when most football players are redshirted as freshmen and don't step onto the playing field until their third year in school, Burgess is starting at free safety in his first season at SVSU. "I didn't expect to start at first," he said after a game in which his open-field tackling was as impressive as his pass defense (he made six tackles, one for a loss).

"EVERYTHING is going pretty well, but they're a lot faster (in college) than they were in high school." A year ago, Burgess was lighting up defenders as a pass receiver for



Chad Burgess made college debut

Harrison's Class B state champions. He teamed with Bryan Wauldron to give the Hawks a superb offensive-defensive combination; both were receivers and defensive backs (Wauldron is now a wide receiver at Eastern Michigan).

Burgess has no illusions about his status. He realizes opposing quarterbacks are going to test a freshman. "I know they're going to come at me," he said. "But the team's there, and that helps. I'm already starting to feel more comfortable."

"I guess I'm going to have to work a lot harder, though."

FOR ONE of his defensive backfield mates, the struggle to reach the starting lineup has been longer but

no less impressive. Brian Tiller, a third-year sophomore, earned his starting spot at the short-side cornerback by beating out senior Larry Washington — a second-team all-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference selection in '88.

Tiller had to learn to play defense. At Plymouth Salem, he was a tailback and quarterback.

"They converted me to defense when I came up here," he said. He worked his way into a part-time starter's role last season, but entering the '89 campaign nothing was assured for him.

"I didn't have (a starting position) coming into camp," Tiller said. "I just took it day by day."

He also knows there's no guarantee he will keep his spot. "I'm just going to have to keep working hard."

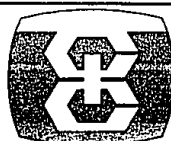
THEIR HARD work apparently paid off against WSU. The run-and-shoot offense is supposed to confuse defenders, who aren't used to seeing four fleet wide receivers zipping across the field. Also, the Tartars tried to keep their adoption of the run-and-shoot a secret, to surprise SVSU.

The last play didn't work. "We heard about it through the grapevine," said Tiller. Burgess added, "We worked on it during camp."

Still, last season the SVSU pass defenders were well-briefed on opposing offenses, and they were still victimized for 197 yards a game. This year, the pressure is on the Cardinal defense. The offense is solid with the backfield tandem of Kevin Mitchell and Rob Cook, both of whom gained more than 1,000 yards rushing in '88, returning.

But the defense must improve after surrendering an average of 340 yards and 28 points a game last season, a major reason the Cardinals finished 4-5.

"We knew coming into the season we were going to have to work as a unit," said Tiller. How well that unit meshes the rest of the season could make a difference in the GLIAC race.



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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

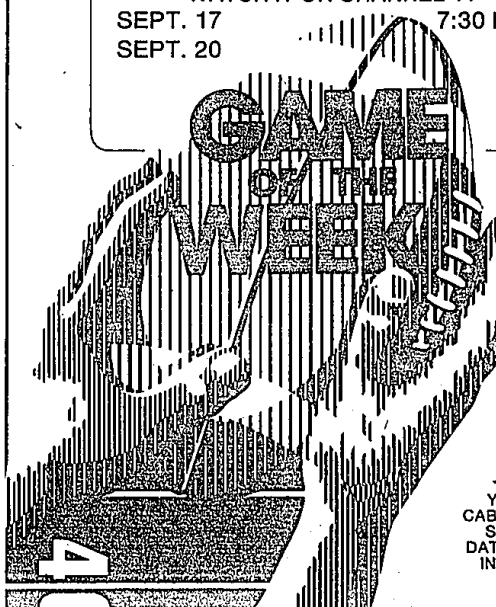
THIS WEEK:

ROCHESTER vs. WEST BLOOMFIELD  
WATCH IT ON CHANNEL 11

SEPT. 17

7:30 P.M.

SEPT. 20



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