

Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312

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(F10)

North shows might as relays champion

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Once coach Pat Duthie got around to making out his lineup, he began to see possibilities for North Farmington in the Western Lakes Activities Association Relays.

The Raiders won five of the 10 events Saturday in the Plymouth Salem pool and won the annual early season event with 255 points over Plymouth Canton (232) and the host Rocks (219).

"I thought we kinda had a shot Friday night and started to get pumped up," Duthie said. "The coaching and competition are real good in this league, and you feel good about doing something."

"I probably feel a little better than (University of Michigan football coach) Bo (Schembechler), but he's still better known and probably makes more money, I'm sure."

North set one of two meet records in the 400-yard medley. Julianne Markey, Anna Palmer, Christie Duthie and Kerry Doran went 4:12.03 to eclipse the mark of 4:15.68 set a year ago by the Raiders.

DUTHIE SAID he was pleased by the performance of Palmer, a freshman who swam the breaststroke, in that event. She also was on the all-freshman unit that won the 200 breaststroke, teaming with Carrie Worthen, Natasha Kuberski and Emily Shively.

The Raiders were entered in the slow heat for the 200 backstroke and 400 individual medley but still won those events. North's other victory came in the crescendo relay.

Markey, Ann Schwarzbach (2), Amy Duthie, Kristen Celke, Kristin, Karrie Kranz, Doran, Nicole Vosganian, Jennifer Wagner, Shively and Christie Duthie comprised those combinations.

"I thought we had five pretty good

swimming

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relays, and five were fortunate to win," Duthie said. "I'm real bubbly about the whole thing because of the way the kids performed and the fun they had doing it."

"We came up with some pretty good combinations, and we got good utilization out of our kids. Some did a great job, but everybody did at least a real good job."

Canton won the meet last year, and coach Hooker Wellman thought the Chiefs had a chance to repeat until he got a look at North's relays.

THE CHIEFS, who won the diving, were second in four events and just missed first place in some cases. Canton might have improved its score by winning some of those races, but the Raiders still would have been tough to catch, according to Wellman.

"The way the seeds were set up, I thought we had a chance at first place," he said. "I told the kids we had to hold on to the spots where we were seeded."

"Once I realized how strong North Farmington was, I just wanted to hang on to a (second-place) trophy. That's not bad in a league like this."

Becky Holsington compiled a 192.30 score and Amy Kodrik a 185.05 as the Chiefs won the diving with a 378.35 total.

As for the swimming events, Canton, which had only a scrimmage meet prior to the relays, needs more work, Wellman said.

"We swam lesser than I thought," he said. "Some kids swam faster

than last year, but we're just not ready yet. We need more meet situations to find out what we've got."

Until last year, when the Chiefs finished second in the WLA meet at the end of the season, the relays winner had always won the league title.

DUTHIE DOWNPLAYS that aspect, saying it's a confidence builder but means nothing more. The Raiders, however, made believers of Wellman and Salem coach Chuck Olson.

"North Farmington was sixth in the state last year, and I think they're better this year," Wellman said. "They've got all events covered real well."

"North Farmington has taken a step forward as far as being the favorite," Olson said. "They looked real good."

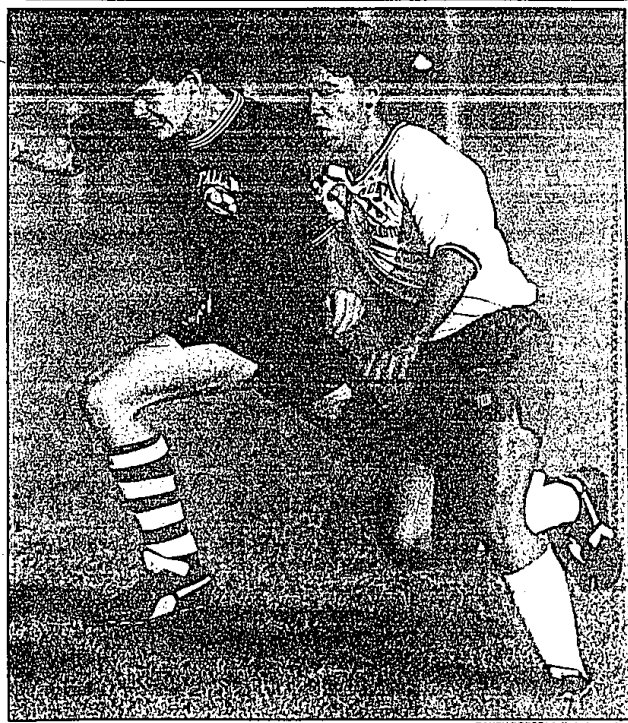
Olson also liked the way his team swam. The Rocks surprised some people by finishing as high as they did, and Olson hopes Salem is there to challenge the Raiders later this season.

"I said one of our goals is the conference championship," he said. "After finishing sixth last year, people might think I'm a little goofy, but maybe (the Rocks) gained a little credibility on Saturday."

Salem's best event was the 400 freestyle in which Cherio Vincent, Candy Bosse, Julie Hickey and Nicole Bosse completed. The Rocks also were among the top four teams in four other events.

"WE JUST SWAM real consistent all the way through," Olson said. "We had a couple girls out (Tammy Hickey and Jane Seidman), who we hope will be a couple of our better swimmers at the league meet."

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RANDY BURST/staff photographer

City rivalry

Rob Cook of Farmington (left) and Pat Beresh of North Farmington are in hot pursuit of the soccer ball, challenging for position in Monday's game at North. The Falcons held on to beat the Raiders 2-1. See story on Page 5D.

Goba, Kiel claim top honors at SC

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Last year's bridesmaids caught the bouquet during Saturday's 24th running of the Schoolcraft College Invitational cross country meet.

Plymouth Canton, which lost in a tiebreaker to Farmington a year ago, captured its first boys crown ever.

And Farmington, which played second fiddle to Canton in the girls meet last season, garnered the 1989 crown. It was the Falcons' second crown in 12 years.

Farmington also boasted the boys and girls individual winners.

Ben Goba was the top boy with a runaway time of 15:47.52, while Jennifer Kiel was the No. 1 girl, holding off North Farmington's Lisa Rivers by three seconds. (See statistical summary.)

But the most satisfied group had to be coach Jim Hayes and his Canton boys squad.

The Chiefs scored 73 points to rival Plymouth Salem's 93.

Senior Brian Beach led the way with a fifth-place finish, while senior Matt Boland added a 12th, junior Mike Ream, a 13th, junior Jason Neapolitano, 20th; and senior Matt Hall, 22nd. (James Carnes and Ron Trostin took 35th and 42nd, respectively.)

"THIS IS A hard-working bunch that has set some goals for this year," said Hayes, the veteran Canton coach. "Our whole goal was to have five guys finish together."

"Even though we lost last year, it was a real nice surprise because we didn't know how good we were."

Boland, who was the Chiefs' seventh runner a year ago, has made tremendous strides.

"Matt did not run in the league meet and that was a big motivation for him going into this year," Hayes said. "He's a senior who's really worked his tail off."

Hayes can also take consolation in the fact that his Chiefs excel academically as well.

"We may have the highest honor-point average in the school," he said. "They're very bright kids who understand discipline and hard work."



ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

Ben Goba of Farmington was the boys overall winner.

ANOTHER TOP-FLIGHT student-athlete is Farmington's Goba, who breezed to the boys individual title after shaking off Novi's Brian Molloy and Livonia Churchill's Scott Westover.

"We expected Ben to do well, he won the West Bloomfield Invitational. It was a question of how fast?" said Farmington coach Jerry Young. "This is the first time he's been under 16 minutes, so he's improved significantly. He's a thin kid (6-feet, 125 pounds), but he's worked hard in the weight room and it's paid off for him."

Farmington's girls, meanwhile, outdistanced Redford Union by 26 points and Canton by 33.

Kiel clipped along the 5,000-meter course in 18:41.41. The senior is one

cross country

of the state's top distance runners, having placed eighth in the 3,000 at the state Class A track meet.

"This girl has the most single-minded attitude of any runner I've ever coached," said Farmington's John Barrett. "She's got talent, but works hard to develop it. She expects a lot of herself and everybody else."

FARMINGTON'S GIRLS virtually ran in a pack.

Junior Jennifer Derwinski and sophomore Allison Davis finished 10th and 11th, respectively. Newcomer Gretchen Clappison, a junior, was 13th, while Margaret Martin, a senior co-captain, was 25th.

"Davis and Derwinski each had a good run," Barrett said. "And Clappison is a new runner for the first time. She has asthma, but she has great potential."

"And Martin is very aggressive. She motivates the rest of the team. This team is all focused. They stick to their goals and don't slack off in workouts."

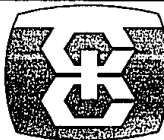
The Falcons will become an even better team when Amy Trunk returns from a leg injury.

"This year we realize this is our best chance to win invitational," said the Farmington coach. "Schoolcraft was one of our goals and so is the conference meet (Western Lakes Activities Association)."

RU, third a year ago, placed second thanks to the efforts of junior Liz Mockridge, who was sixth, and junior Kelly Murray, who was ninth. Sophomore Tracey James, who ran despite being sick, was 15th. Laura Wedge and Michelle Daraban were 31st and 32nd, respectively.

"We just ran well," said RU coach Bob Ouellette. "We have no seniors this year so whatever happens, happens."

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