

City stars go easy on each other

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Maybe it was a sense of compassion, or maybe it was a case of burnout.

Then again there could have been any number of reasons — injury, true sportsmanship, lack of purpose — why two of Observersland's finest female cross country runners ran but didn't race Thursday when Farmington met North Farmington in a dual meet.

Longtime rivals and friends Lisa Rives of North and Jennifer Kiel of Farmington ran side-by-side the entire race and eventually crossed the finish line together at Oakland Community College in 20:14, sharing first place.

Farmington, as expected, was an easy winner, 19½-40½, and the lack of competition between the teams was possibly one reason the respective stars pulled back on the reins this time.

Another is the two have already engaged in hearty duels twice this season at the West Bloomfield and Schoolcraft Invitational, and they will cross paths twice next week at the Redford Union Invitational on Tuesday and the Oakland County meet on Saturday.

BUT THE BEST explanation for the absence of another heated race was the fact Kiel was running in competition for the first time since being involved in an auto accident last Friday.

"Neither one of us had that great a week," Kiel said, adding X-rays proved negative but she suffered whiplash, a badly bruised neck and minor cuts. "Then I got a cold over the weekend."

"Lisa has always been a friend of mine, and we really got to work together today. We don't usually get to do that. This wasn't a really important race today."

"It went really fast," she added. "It took my mind off my cold."

Both said their decision to go at an easy pace was not planned or decided beforehand but rather

cross country

something that transpired as the race progressed.

Rives said she would never deliberately hold back from giving her all because of sympathy for the opponent, but she expressed concern after reading about Kiel's accident in last Thursday's edition of the Observer.

"I WAS CONCERNED she might be more seriously hurt and wouldn't be able to run any more this year," she said. "Since we've been competing against each other so long, it's real important we have the best senior year possible."

"I couldn't think of anything worse than ending my senior year without her. None of the big races would be the same."

North coach Bill Pinnell, however, said he wouldn't be surprised if Rives, who also has been battling illness, didn't go all out knowing that her competition was 100 percent.

"Lisa is that kind of girl," he said. "Lisa is a sweetheart. She understands what happened to (Kiel), and she might have done that so both could have a good race."

Rives wouldn't say so directly, but one had to wonder if Thursday's race came off the way it did because the victory might have been considered tainted or seen as rubbing it in with Kiel presumably unable to run full tilt.

"There wasn't any point we decided to do it," Rives said. "It was just two runners who felt like running. I can't explain it. You have to be a runner to understand."

At the one-mile mark, Rives and Kiel were hav-

ing an obviously friendly discussion, and it was apparent the anticipated duel would not take place this day.

"WE WERE TALKING about what we've been doing this week and how things were going," Pinnell said. "It turns out she almost went to Farmington. We talked about how hard it would have been if we had to run against each other every day."

Is this polite and gracious atmosphere likely to continue Tuesday when Kiel and Rives go head-to-head at RU. Each has won a major meet already.

"We probably won't be talking — not during the race," Kiel said.

Pinnell said he talked to Rives about pacing herself for next week, and there might have been a misreading, with Rives thinking he meant to hold back Thursday.

"She runs to push herself all the time, and I told her not to run herself out on the ground," Pinnell said. "My mistake was talking to her this week about next week."

"Today, like everybody, I expected a little tougher race, but she might have figured it was a dual meet and the result would be lopsided."

"IT'S A BIG week next week with RU and county and, believe me, those two will be going after blood those two days," he added.

Helping the Falcons to lock up the city championship — Farmington Hills Harrison didn't have enough runners for a team score — were Jenny Derwinski, third, 21:17; Allison Davis, fourth, 21:31; Gretchen Clappison, fifth, 22:33; and Cheryl Casaroli, sixth, 22:48. In addition, Carrie Walter was eighth (23:07) and Sherri Vitale 10th (23:50).

North's Angie Martin was seventh (22:55), Kara Higley ninth (23:40), Adrienne Mocelli 10th (23:50), Marie Scott 12th (24:23), Lisa Biederman 16th (26:16) and Lynn Patel 17th (27:38).

Falcons retain boys championship

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Farmington might not be the boys cross country power it was in past years, having been beset by injuries and personnel losses.

But the Falcons are still the city's premier team, winning an anticipated close duel with North Farmington Thursday to win the annual city meet, which they have dominated the last 20 years.

Farmington edged the Raiders 26-29 at Oakland Community College. Farmington Hills Harrison had 93 points.

"This year we thought we'd be so good, but we haven't been able to do all the injuries," said Farmington junior Ben Goba, who captured individual honors as expected with a 17:03 time. "But we're starting to come

back. I want to make it to state as a team."

Before the season started, the Falcons lost Gene Tokraks when his father was transferred to Arizona and Mark Mitchell, one of the team's top five runners a year ago, for the season with a knee injury.

Then, Matt Langdon and Greg Enders went down with injuries; however, both ran in the city meet, and Langdon played a pivotal role, finishing fourth for Farmington and sixth overall.

"Matt Langdon has been back three days (after recovering from a case of shin splints), and he was the difference between winning and losing," Farmington coach Jerry Young said. "He pushed their third, fourth and fifth runners farther back."

"Our kids ran real well. (Kevin) Van Ord and (Darius) Mehraban had

their best times out there, and Goba ran his usual race. This was an easy race for him, but it wasn't an easy race for our team."

Van Ord finished fourth overall in 18:06, Mehraban fifth in 18:12 and Langdon sixth with the same time as Mehraban. Farmington's No. 5 runner was Eric Crawford in 10th place at 18:53.

"The kids knew North would be fired up," Young said, "so we were serious about defending our title."

"It's always nice to win the city championship, and this year it's one of our important goals. Our goals are not as lofty as they have been in the past, but we really wanted to win this meet."

North was led by Jason Biederman and Craig Stoe, who finished second and third, respectively, in

Golfers notch 2 wins

Brian Link and Adam Hibbs shot 39s Friday to lead Farmington past Livonia Stevenson 203-220 in a Lakes Division golf match at San Marino Golf Course.

Tim True and Chris Zhanek carded 41s for the Falcons and Jason Buba 43. Stevenson's Joe Atwell shot 41, Brian Ransom 44, Bo Diamond, Mark Peterson and Pete Theophelis 45.

On Wednesday, Buba led the Falcons with a 37 at San Marino as Farmington defeated Wall Lake Central 199-221.

Zhanek shot 38, True 39, Brian DeSantis 41 and Hibbs 44. Central's Matt Heit recorded 41 strokes, Todd Roy 43, John Dertinger 44, Aaron Mason 45 and Tim Williams 45.

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**tennis**

**PLYMOUTH CANTON 6**  
FARMINGTON HILLS HARRISON 1  
Friday at Harrison

No. 1 singles: Karl Davidson (H) def. Tonya Bowman, 6-0, 6-0.  
No. 2: Sheri Bajer (C) def. Lisa Tomle, 6-2, 6-4.  
No. 3: Aissa Huth (C) def. Marilyn Orosko, 6-2, 6-3.  
No. 4: Michele Sparkman (C) def. Julie Hest, 6-1, 6-1.  
No. 5 doubles: Leanne Gursch-Denise Goss (C) def. Jo Banninger-Jodie Whitehead, 7-5, 6-2.  
No. 2: Heather Kaye-Betham Batta (C) def. Kristi Cornwell-Melissa Pendergast, 6-4, 7-6 (5-7).  
No. 3: Reelka Akash-Vivian Parakh (C) def. Alicia Pambour-Claudia Forge, 6-3, 7-5.  
Record: Canton is 10-1 overall. Next match: Canton plays Farmington at home, 3:30 p.m. today.

**FARMINGTON HILLS MERCY 7**  
HARRIS WOODS REGINA 0  
Friday at Mercy

No. 1 singles: Nicole Transou (M) def. Alexandra Lowe, 6-1, 6-1.  
No. 2: Sharon Fitzpatrick (M) def. Pam Mason, 6-1, 6-2.  
No. 3: Alison West (M) def. Lisa Miron, 6-2, 6-2.  
No. 4: Robin Bajer (M) def. Laura Mater, 6-0, 6-2.  
No. 1 doubles: Sue Broughton-Elizabeth Lamb (M) def. Mickey Burn-Melissa Anderson, 6-0, 6-1.  
No. 2: Cindy Koo-Sharon Bujas (M) def. Kristine Edwards-Jenna Kuhn, 6-0, 6-0.  
No. 3: Melinda Campbell-Tina Hoen (M) def. Roxanne Dabante-Danielle Goss, 6-0, 6-1.  
Record: Mercy is 7-0. Next match: Mercy plays Birmingham Groves 4 p.m. Tuesday at home.

**LIVONIA STEVENSON 4**  
NORTH FARMINGTON 3  
Thursday at Stevenson

No. 1 singles: Howie Ford (S) defeated Jennifer Low, 6-1, 6-2.

No. 2: Lisa Mueller (HF) def. Laura Perry, 6-2, 6-0.  
No. 3: Erin Phelps (S) def. Tana Bochniak, 6-4, 6-1.  
No. 4: Gina Pergeles (S) def. Julie Berman, 7-5, 4-6, 7-5.  
No. 1 doubles: Lisa Anderson-Hadley Thurner (HF) def. Amy Snow-Corinne Toca, 6-4, 6-7, 6-3.  
No. 2: Jennifer Relli-Jennifer Kustaf (HF) def. Sue Bell-Lisa Barry, 6-4, 6-0.  
No. 3: Kirk Miller-Karen Blakey (S) def. Jennifer Kenna-Amy Howe, 6-3, 6-2.

**BIRMINGHAM MARHAN 5**  
FARMINGTON HILLS MERCY 2  
Thursday at Mercy

No. 1 singles: Nicole Transou (Mercy) defeated Stephanie Doughter, 6-0, 6-2.  
No. 2: Karen Meas (Marhan) def. Shannon Fitzpatrick, 1-0, default due to injury.  
No. 3: Devon Dietz (Marhan) def. Alison Bajer, 6-2, 6-2.  
No. 4: Tara Dietz (Marhan) def. Robin Barker, 6-3, 6-3.  
No. 1 doubles: Julie Egan-Lisa Snyder (Marhan) def. Elizabeth Lamb-Sue Broughton, 7-6, 6-1.  
No. 2: Lisa Koo-Sharon Bujas (Mercy) def. Kristine Edwards-Jenna Kuhn, 6-4, 6-3.  
No. 3: Meg Cornell-Jane Combs (Marhan) def. Kristi Cornwell-Melissa Pendergast, 6-3, 6-4.

**PLYMOUTH SALEM 7**  
TUESDAY AT FARMINGTON

No. 1 singles: Anna Gurens (S) defeated Julie Ford, 6-3, 7-5.  
No. 2: Wendy Shaw (S) def. Joey Perro, 6-4, 6-1.  
No. 3: Travis Kaczka (S) def. Stacey Gurens, 6-1, 6-1.  
No. 4: Tracy Anderson (S) def. Sara Stearns, 7-5, 6-4.  
No. 1 doubles: Kathy Marschak-Michelle Hest (S) def. Carrie Gurens-Shannon Adams, 6-1, 6-1.  
No. 2: Julie Bisse-Lisa Statham (S) def. Amy Broughton-Jill Michelle Lene, 6-3, 7-5.  
No. 3: Kelly Knaptrich-Chris Flann (S) def. Eileen McManis-Kristy Roddy, 6-1, 6-2.

**Rocks halt Farmington**

Plymouth Salem extended its winning streak to nine games Wednesday in boys soccer while snapping Farmington's at three, 3-0.

Jeff Gold led Salem with two goals, one of which came on a penalty kick. His brother, Matt, was responsible for the other Rock goal, which was also scored on a penalty kick. All three goals came in the second half.

Matt Tudor, who has been doing the job all season for the Rocks, recorded the shutout, Salem's eighth consecutive. Mike Steehy took the loss in goal for the Falcons, 4-2-3 overall.

"It was a real exciting second half," Farmington coach Cathy Cole said. "The penalty kicks really hurt us."

Salem, the No. 1-rated team in Class A, plays second-ranked Northville at 7 p.m. today at Centennial Educational park.

**CANTON 2, NORTHVILLE 0:** The Chiefs did all their work in the first half at home Thursday. Dan Martin scored both goals to give Canton a 2-0 lead at halftime.

Andy Collins got the win in goal for the Chiefs, 5-5-1. Eric Miller and Kristian Kipelaen assist on Martin's goals.

"Everybody played very well," Canton coach Don Smith said. "It was a good team effort. Were starting to mold together nicely."

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