

Raiders send trio to state

North Farmington was fourth in the Class A girls cross country regional meet Saturday at Marshall Park, but the Raiders still qualified three runners for the individual state final.

Only the top three teams in each regional automatically advance to the state championship meet Saturday at L.E. Kaufman Golf Course in Wyoming Park.

North, the Western Lakes Activities Association champion, was knocked out by two teams it had beaten in the WLA meet, Walled Lake Western and Livonia Stevenson.

Western won the regional with 80 points; Stevenson was second (88), Ann Arbor Pioneer third (94) and the Raiders fourth (134). Stevenson was second and Western third in the WLA.

"We didn't get out to a good start, and we were back in pack," North coach Bill Pizzini Jr. said. "With the condition of the course, we weren't going to make it up."

NORTH'S EMILY Shively was second (20:05), Keegan Keefeover 14th (21:30) and Alicia Crossland 17th (21:51). The top 10 individuals excluding members of the winning teams or the top 20 runners go to state.

(Shively) was back in the pack but worked her way up and ran a real good race," Pizzini said. "Except for, in the (state) individual race, to be up there among the top three to five runners. I'm hoping she can win it, but she's going to have a lot of competition there."

In addition to the North girls, Farmington Hills Mercy and Farm-



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

North's Alicia Crossland qualified for the state finals.

ington qualified one each for the Class A individual race. Shermila Prasad of Mercy was 11th (21:10) and Allison Davis of Farmington 18th (21:35).

Catholic League champ Mercy was sixth and Farmington eighth in the girls team standings. Farmington was ninth and North 16th in the boys competition and had no individual qualifiers.

Mercy's Amy Freund and Heather Noll just missed qualifying in the girls race, finishing 22nd and 24th, respectively. Eileen O'Connell was 31st and Mary Thewes 55th.

The Marlins were second Tuesday in the freshman-sophomore meet at Center Line, and Freund (sophomore) was the individual winner among 100 girls with a 20:10 time. O'Connell was fourth (20:52), Thewes 18th (21:47), Ann Seymour 27th and Amy Dinges 69th. Grosse Pointe South won the meet.

Playoffs next for some teams

By Brad Emone
staff writer

Most Overland teams will be gathering up their football equipment and putting it away in the storage rooms after this weekend's action.

But for some, the season has only just begun.

Unbeaten Redford Catholic Central (Class AA-Region III), Farmington Harrison (Class BB-Region IV) and Redford St. Agathe (Class C-Region IV) will all be going to the post-season playoff dance.

Twice-beaten North Farmington (6-3), despite a late Saturday win against South Lyon, is a lock for one of the four spots in Class A-Region III.

Redford Union (5-3) is also fighting for the fourth and final playoff spot in Class A-Region III against Romulus (5-3) and Detroit Chabney (5-3). The Panthers, however, must first beat Farmington (5-3) on Saturday to get itself in position.

A solid bet in Class AA-Region II is Plymouth Salem (6-3). The Rockets must first beat rival Plymouth Canton (5-3) on Friday, and have 7-1 Clarston defeat 6-2 Brighton, which is coming off a humiliating 44-0 loss last week to Plant Canton. To get in. That appears to be a very distinct possibility.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN (6-3) is a lock to pass Salem in Class AA-Region II. The Rockets need a victory over rival Wayne Memorial (4-4), and a series of upsets to make it. Battle Creek Central (7-1), even with a loss to rival Battle Creek Lakeview (6-6), is an Ann Arbor Pioneer (6-3) must make it with a victory over rival Ann Arbor Huron (5-5), as well as Adrian (6-3). If it beats Monroe (5-3), and remember, Brighton (6-3) must spoil both Salem and Glenn's chances with a win over Clarston.

As for the prediction race, your friendly prognosticator went 11-14 last week, running his overall mark to 65-83. But he is still five games behind the lucky Irishman, Dan O'Meara, who now stands 91-37 overall after going 10-4.

Here is a look at the final week of the regular season.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

(all 7:30 p.m. unless noted)

Lutheran Westland at Det. Lutheran West (7 p.m.): Coach Dennis Turner returns to the old stadium grounds, facing a League team (6-2) nursing second in Class C-Region IV. Meanwhile, the Warriors (4-4) are in danger of losing their straight. West is coming off an 18-14 loss to Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, while Lutheran Westland was swept by Westlake Walden, 14-12. PCKS: Go Detroit Lutheran West young man.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

(all 1 p.m. unless noted)

Liv. Claremontville at Red. Thurston: (1-7) here held a card of a true prophecy. The run, giving up 240-plus to Dearborn Heights Cranbrook's Chuck Reynolds and 308 (and change) to Clarston's Dan Griffin. How many will State Devils get this week for Truman (5-5)? PCKS: O'Leary says CC is ripe for a victory, but Emone says Harry B.

coach Russ McKenzie needs a good showing, while Thurston's Bob Snel needs some offense. PCKS: Thurston makes its nameless, Lee M. proud.

Redford Union at Farmington: RU made a golden opportunity last week to make the playoffs, losing 7-0 to Waterford Mont. The Panthers (5-3) need a dry field and an inspired showing the week against Farmington (5-3) which is coming off its fourth straight loss, a 7-6 setback to Franklin. The only competitive score between the two clubs is against Stevenson, RU lost to the Spartans in the season opener, 30-14, while Farmington beat Stevenson in OT, 15-7. PCKS: Emone says both pose wars with Farmington, but he takes RU. O'Meara says with the Falcons.

South Lyon at N. Farmington: The game of the day pitting the unbeaten Lions, led by junior backs Billy Porter and Ken Nelson, against the 6-2 Raiders, who nearly upended state power Farmington Harrison in last week's Western Lakes tieup, 20-14 in OT. Running back Todd Anderson and quarterback Mark Temple make North a threat both on the ground and in the air. PCKS: Restore the Road? Emone can't argue with the Lions. O'Meara says. He predicts a North win.

Toledo CC at Farm. Harrison: Toledo Central Catholic is only 4-3 and far from being one of the powers of Northwest Ohio. Unbeaten Harrison is in the playoffs, but banged up. The Lions, playing critics, showed they were human last week after escaping the clutches of North. PCKS: Harrison wins a purple heart by going undefeated.

Bishop Borgess vs. St. Clement (2:00 p.m. at Center Line): Bishop Borgess (4-4) has supposedly played the toughest competition in the Catholic League's Tri-Sectional. St. Clement (6-2), meanwhile, is trying to hang on to a playoff berth in Class C-Region IV. Ray Henke is a good running back for the Crusaders, while Borgess counters with John Valentine. PCKS: Emone says Borgess is the Valentine, keeping St. Clement on edge with the computer. O'Meara sides with Borgess, too.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

(Prep Bowl at Pont. Silverdome)

St. Agatha vs. Det. East Catholic (4 p.m.): The Aggies (8-0) could add another chapter for their storied season with a victory over the Chargers (7-1), a team headed for the playoffs in Class D-Region IV. The same two teams met two years ago for the Catholic League C-D Division crown with East Catholic coming out on top. PCKS: The coin flip please. It's Aggie this time around.

Redford CC vs. Det. DePueces (7 p.m.): The second meeting this season between the two teams. CC (6-0) won the first encounter, 21-6, and has not been seriously challenged after the first half in any game this season. DePueces (6-2) is in a slouch, especially on the last Severn game card. Charles Winters is a basketball star. PCKS: CC is a run-away freight train. Take the Shamrocks.

Farmington win would sink RU

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"I'd be hurt for a while if I didn't win this one," Fitzpatrick said. "When you have a lot of easy games, you wonder how good you are. They definitely woke us up."

There hasn't been a game when the starters played all four quarters," Pizzi said. "We knew with the rain there would be a lot of ball control, and whoever made the big plays would win."

Both teams made a lot of big plays in the last 34 minutes with Fitzpatrick's 7-yard touchdown pass to Granger in overtime being the last one.

"Roy wasn't even one of his receivers," Harrington said. "We were trying to throw the ball to Peci. Andy kept looking and looking and saw Roy on the back side and put it right in there."

Harrington ends the regular season Saturday at home against Toledo Central Catholic and will qualify for the Class BB playoffs regardless of the outcome.

The Hawks have won four consecu-

utive WLA championships and led overall since the league was organized in 1982. Harrison has won 55 of its last 59 games, too.

North ends the regular season with a big game Saturday when it takes unbeaten South Lyon.

Both are Class A playoff hopefuls. The Raiders could still qualify despite possibly being 6-3, but they would rather not go to post-season play with two straight losses.

After playing so well against Harrison, one has to believe North can do the same and win against South Lyon. The Raiders did last year, 21-11. South Lyon is No. 4 in the state, North No. 8.

"We don't want to back into the playoffs," O'Leary said. "We want to go in 7-2. As far as I'm concerned, we can win the state title if that's the No. 1 team (Harrison) in the whole state. I'm more proud of these kids than I was before the game."

Farmington no longer has a chance to make the Class A playoffs with a 3-5 record, but the Falcons can be the spoiler Saturday when they play host to Redford Union.

The New York Suburban League co-champion Panthers are 5-3 and hope to qualify in the same region as North. A 6-3 record could do it, but a 5-4 mark would most likely put RU out of the running.

Farmington is probably better than its record indicates and has shown what it can do. The Falcons could prove a point by ending the season with a win.

Hawks topple Vikes

It was only a matter of time for an improved Farmington Hills Harrison girls basketball team.

After being close in so many league games, the Hawks defeated a 10-game losing streak Tuesday night with their first Western Lakes Activities Association victory.

Junior center Heather Hopkins scored 17 points and pulled in 11 rebounds as host Harrison defeated Walled Lake Central 42-39.

The Hawks are 1-9 in the WLA and 4-12 overall, the Vikings 5-5 and 8-7.

"We've been in a lot of games," Harrison coach Pete Mantyla said. "Some of them were real hard losses, too. It's nice to get over the hump."

Harrison trailed 25-11 at halftime but outscored Central 31-14 in the second half, which included a 14-4 margin in the fourth quarter.

"We came to life after an ugly start," Mantyla said. "We started hitting our shot."

The Vikings scored the first four points of the second half before Harrison began its comeback.

Senior Katie McAskin made a free throw with :08 remaining to give the Hawks a 40-39 lead, and freshman forward Krista Snow made a basket at the buzzer.

Sophomore guard Amanda Ault scored seven points for Harrison, and Snow scored all six of hers in the last period.

CANTON 54, N. FARMINGTON 23: Three players scored in doubles for the host Chiefs, who are 9-1 in the WLA and 13-3 overall.

Sophomore guard Britta Anderson had 13 points, junior center Stephanie Gray 12 and junior forward Jori Welch 10.

Canton led 17-10 after one quarter and outscored the Raiders 37-13 in the next three. The Chiefs led 29-12 at halftime.

Senior guard Karen Sorelmi had 10 points and sophomore center Carey Perkins eight for North, 3-7 and 4-11. Perkins also had 10 rebounds.

NORTHVILLE 73, FARMINGTON 22: The host Mustangs raced to a 27-2 lead in the first quarter and led 45-12 at halftime.

Kara McNeil scored 10 points and Beth MacLean 12 for Northville, 7-3 in the WLA and 13-3 overall.

Senior center Becky Westwood and junior guard Nicole Bingham scored six points apiece for the Falcons, 2-8 and 3-13.

Shamrocks advance in 'A' cross country

The objective was simple for the Redford Catholic Central cross country team at last weekend's Class A boys regional at Marshall Park — just finish in the top three.

The Shamrocks achieved that goal Saturday, placing third behind champion Walled Lake Western and second-place finisher Ann Arbor Pioneer to earn a berth in the Nov. 2 state final, which starts at 11 a.m. with the individual race at L.E. Kaufman Golf Course in Wyoming Park.

Western, led by first place individual finisher Bill Crosby, who covered the 5,000-meter course in 16:10, scored 72 points. Pioneer and CC scored 86 and 93, respectively, in the 18-team field.

"I've never been so happy to be third in my life," said CC's Tony Magali, whose team has won for the eighth time under its tenure as coach. "It was by far the toughest regional in the state."

"Our first priority was to get out (of the regional). We just had to look for the leaders, hang on and finish tough. We had to qualify, whatever it took."

STEVE WITKE, a senior, paced

the Shamrocks with a fourth-place showing in 16:48.

Junior Jamie Fitzgerald, who was 11th at the Catholic League meet last week, turned in his finest performance of the year with a ninth place in 17:09.

Rounding out the CC contingent was junior Mike Mittman, 14th (17:21); junior Chris Kula, 22nd (17:50); and sophomore Mark Leo, 34th (17:55).

Juniors Damon Harris and Eric McKoon finished 38th and 48th, respectively, but did not figure in the team scoring.

"McKoon was hurt, a pulled calf," Magali said. "If not for the strain, we would have been second for sure."

The Shamrocks are considered a longshot to win the state championship, even though Magali's teams have won the coveted title three times (1983, 1984 and '89).

"If we run well, we'll be in the top five," Magali said. "But the favored team often doesn't win it. You never know."

Milford Lakeland appears to be the top contender for the title with Western and Pioneer not far behind.

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