

RU's Blanchard Clears 14'8" In Pole Vault

Watch Falcons, Franklin In State Meet

There's only a small chance an Observerland school will win the state Class A track championship in East Lansing Saturday.

But there's a great chance that several of the area's individual athletes will carry away some major honors when the state's best clash.

From a team standpoint, Farmington and Franklin will lead the way.

Farmington, unbeaten in dual competition, carried off the regional crown for the second year in a row on its home field with 41 points. Oak Park was a distant

second with 25 while Brother Rice followed with 24½ points. Birmingham Groves had 21½ points, Bloomfield Andover 20 and then it was North Farmington with nine, Southfield-Lathrup with four and Southfield with two.

Meantime, Franklin came up with a third place finish at Belleville, scoring 25 points as Belleville with 32, led by its one-man track gang, Gerarde Pettis, who won three titles and took second in another, beat out Ann Arbor Huron for the crown.

Livonia's Bentley, Stevenson and Churchill, along with John Glenn,

Plymouth and Garden City West all finished well back. Individually, speaking, it'll be a powerful delegation from Observerland that goes to East Lansing.

LEADING THE WAY will be Roger Blanchard of Redford Union who was once told that he shouldn't compete in sports because of a deformity with which he was born.

But Blanchard has become Michigan's premier prep pole vaulter. He won the regional at Belleville with an effort of 14 feet, 8 inches, the second highest ever in Michigan by a schoolboy and

1½ inches higher than the present state record.

The only way a prep can even to take the title. Tom Massey in the shot with a toss of 54 feet 4½ inches. Brother Rice's Sam McGlothlin in the mile with 4:22.6. Mark Timmons in the 440 in :50.4 and the mile relay in 3:28.2. Mahalic, the prep football star of the year last fall and the all-state quarterback, won the low hurdles in the dazzling time of :19.1.

The first three in each event qualified for the state and here's how Observerland entries qualified:

AT FARMINGTON

The host Falcons won four events to take the title. Tom Massey in the shot with a toss of 54 feet 4½ inches. Brother Rice's Sam McGlothlin in the mile with 4:22.6. Mark Timmons in the 440 in :50.4 and the mile relay in 3:28.2.

The first three in each event qualified for the state and here's how Observerland entries qualified:

880-yard: 1-Orlando (Brother Rice), 2-Hildebrandt (Farm). Time: 1:55.3. (Hildebrandt's 1:55.9 a school record.)

High Hurdles: 3-Pender (Farm). Mile: 1-McGlothlin (Farm), 2-Bob Reason (Groves). Time: 4:22.6.

100-yard: 2-James Cosmi (Groves).

440-yard: 1-Mark Timmons (Farm), 2-Mark Radant (Lathrup). Time: :50.4.

Low Hurdles: 1-Draw Mahalic (N. Farm), 3-Randy Pender (Farm). Time: 19.9.

220-yard: 2-Cosmi (Groves). Mile relay: 1-Farmington, 3-Rice. Time: 3:28.3.

Shot Put: 1-Tom Massey (Farm). Distance: 54 feet, 4 ½ inches.

Long Jump: 2-Jim Brunetto (Rice).

High Jump: 3-Kevin Callaghan (Rice), 2-Tie Scott Chenett (Groves).

Pole Vault: 2-Nat Durham (Farm), 4-Ken Graff (Southfield).

Pettis soared 6-8½ to win the high jump, captured the high and low hurdles and took second in the long jump.

But the most dramatic event of the afternoon was the mile relay, which finished the meet. Thurston with Dave Sheffield, Steve Boyak, Pat Woelke and Russ Meredith ran to a school record of 3:22.42, barely nipping Cherry Hill and Franklin in the blanket finish.

Tom Chester, Ken Yuhasz, Joe and Mike Jinnet carried the baton for Franklin which finished with a time of 3:22.59, or just 17, 100 behind Thurston.

The Observer qualifiers at Belleville: Two Mile: 1-Dennis Kurts (Churchill). Time: 9:31.2. Pole Vault: 1-Roger Blanchard (R. Union), 2-Al Borovsky (Glenn). Height 14' 8".

220-yard: 3-Dale Halliwell (Garden City West).

880-yard relay: 2-Franklin (Mike McKindies, Joe Jinnet, Ken Yuhasz and Mike Jinnet).

440-yard: 3-Mike Jinnet (Franklin).

100-yard: 2-Ken Yuhasz (Franklin), 3-Charles Young (Glenn).

Low Hurdles: 2-Mark Newman (Franklin).

Shot Put: 1-Jim Powierski (Thurston), 3-Jim Craig (Franklin). Distance: 54 feet, 11½ inches.

High Jump: 4-Gary Burke (Franklin), qualified because he met state standard of six feet, one inch.

Mile relay: 1-Thurston, 3-Franklin. Time: 3:22.42.

AT SOUTHGATE Two Mile: 3-Al Rewekamp (Bishop Borgess).

AT CLARENCEVILLE (CLASS B) High Jump: 3-Rick Stearns (Clarenceville).

Mile: 3-E. Harsant (Farmington Harrison).

17 Teams Open Play Wednesday In Tourney

It's batter up starting Wednesday in the seventh annual Les Anders invitational baseball tournament.

Seventeen varsity schoolboy teams from the Observer area will seek the title in the invitational sponsored by the Livonia Optimist Club, Livonia Recreation Department and the Observer newspapers.

All games will be played at Ford Field on Farmington Road, south of Five Mile Road and the tourney will be conducted on a one-defeat-and-out basis.

Plymouth and Redford Union will collide in Wednesday first game at 6 p.m. with Wayne meeting Churchill at 8:30.

First round action will continue Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday. The quarterfinals will be held on May 27 and 28 with the semifinals carried for May 31 and the finals June 1.

The complete first round schedule:

WEDNESDAY Plymouth vs. Redford Union, 6 p.m.; Wayne vs. Churchill, 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY Crestwood vs. Garden City East, 6 p.m.; St. Agatha vs. Garden City West, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY Franklin vs. John Glenn, 6 p.m.; Thurston vs. Sorrows, 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Clarenceville vs. Bentley, 6 p.m.; Stevenson vs. Bishop Borgess, 8:30 p.m.

MONDAY Northville vs. Wayne — Churchill winner, 6 p.m.

Glenn, Raiders In Tight Race

So, now it's down to Wednesday's final games in the Northwest Suburban League's baseball chase. John Glenn is assured no worse than a share of the crown.

A victory for Glenn, now 7-2 in the standings, over Oak Park will wrap up an undisputed crown.

But if Glenn stumbles and North Farmington beats Thurston, there'll be co-titlists with North Farmington winding up tied for the top slot.

GLENN MISSED a chance to win it outright Monday when downed by Franklin, 7-5, in a free-hitting game. Franklin lashed out 12 hits and Glenn 10.

Franklin scored three times each in the second and third innings and held on to win Glenn had a three-run surge in the fourth inning.

Rick Frayer stopped Glenn in relief of Tony Kaseta while Darv Demaray lasted only 1 1/2 innings for Glenn.

North Farmington squeezed past Groves, 3-2 as Jim White allowed three hits and fanned nine to best John Dickel who was touched for five hits.

North Farmington's first run was walked in, the second came on Mike Collar's double and the third and winner on an error. Drew Jackson doubled in the Groves runs.

Oak Park bumped Thurston, 10-6, tallying six runs in fifth inning without a hit.

Twelve batters came to the plate. Three got on via walks, one was hit, two were safe on errors and four on fielder's choices.

Dennis Poppenger's two run homer was the big blow for Thurston.

Win Keeps Hope Alive

There's life in Garden City East in its bid for the Mid-Wayne League baseball title. By downing Ann Arbor, 4-0, East upped its record to 5-2 in the league and left itself in position to overhaul Taylor and Luthern West since East plays both before the week is over.

Dennis Ray was the winning pitcher. He allowed four hits and fanned seven.

East scored three runs in the fifth on hits by Brian Smith, Jim Winiowski and Greg Puiushes, plus two walks. Puiushes' hit drove in two men.

Steve Shingled, was sacrificed along, and scored on Dennis Kesik's hit for the final East run.



BROTHER RICE'S Sam Orlando hits the finish line a stride in front of Farmington's Kim Hildebrandt in the 880 yard run. Sam was clocked in 1:55.8 and Kim in 1:55.9 after one of the greatest duels of the year. (Photo by Tom Donoghue)

RU Moves Back Into Loop Race

Redford Union has returned to the winning track and it must stay there Thursday against Bentley to gain a share of the Suburban Six League baseball title.

After winning five straight in the league and then dropping three straight, Redford Union went eight innings Monday to down Plymouth, 6-4, on Bill Herbert's homer after Bill Booker had singled.

With Allen Park downing Belleville, 5-2, RU and the Parkers share the lead with 6-3 marks going into Thursday's final league games.

Thus, either team could win the title or it could end in a deadlock.

Randy Ferguson went the route for RU to gain his ninth victory while Brad Truax was the loser for Plymouth which had a chance to possibly tie for the title by winning its final two games.

RU had rallied with two runs on a double by R.J. LeRoux and a single by Mike Johnson and two errors to tie the game in the sixth inning after Plymouth had a 4-1 lead.

Truax, the losing pitcher, Harrison Registers 1st Shutout

Gary Morrison made baseball history Saturday for Farmington Harrison.

He pitched the school's first shutout in blanking Howell, 5-0, after Harrison had won the opener of the doubleheader, 7-6.

Morrison allowed two infield hits, fanned nine and walked two in addition he and Tom Goodwin each collected two hits.

In the opener, Jeff Kallgren lashed out four hits and drove in three runs to pace Harrison.

OVER THE BAR at 14' 8", highest vault in Michigan schoolboy history, goes Redford Union's Roger Blanchard. He won the event in the regional meet at Belleville and now goes after the state record Saturday in the M SAA championships in East Lansing. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

Blanchard cleared 14 feet, 8 inches, the second highest ever in Michigan by a schoolboy and 1½ inches higher than the present state record.

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