

Sports

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RU's new facility site for big meet

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

It could rain from now until Saturday and Redford Union athletic director Jim Gibbons still won't be too concerned about completing the 22nd Annual Observerland Boys Track Relays.

That's because the outdated cinder track at RU's Howard Kraft Field has been replaced by a modern all-weather surface and it's ready (rain, sleet or snow) for Saturday's 3:30 p.m. start.

RU hosted the Observerland Relays from 1971 through '82 but it's been held at Livonia Churchill the last nine years after a rain storm turned the final meet at RU into a quagmire.

Gibbons recalls the last Observerland Relays run at Kraft Field and all the confusion (not too mention mud) the rain caused.

"The track looked like a swimming pool," Gibbons said. "We accidentally started the 100-yard dash 10 yards ahead of where it should have been because we couldn't see the starting lines. Everyone had faster times despite running in the rain and mud — and it didn't take long to figure out why."

ABOUT ALL there is to figure this year is who will win.

Defending champion Plymouth Salem brings another strong team into Saturday's meet but several teams believe they can challenge or dethrone the Hawks.

Among those capable are Northville, Plymouth Canton, Redford Catholic Central, Wayne Memorial, Westland John Glenn and Farmington Hills Harrison.

"There is no dominant team," said Livonia Churchill coach Fred Price, whose team won the sleet-shortened '83 Observerland Relays. "This is the most wide-open I've seen — unless Northville gets it going."

And Price warned, "Don't count us out. The kids always get excited for this."

track

Hawks win relays, 4B

Salem coach Geoff Baker was a member of the Hawks' team in '91, when they won the Observerland Relays held at RU. Salem won eight events that year, including the two-mile relay which Baker was a part of.

THE '92 Hawks won last Saturday's Tiger Relays at Belleville High School.

"I think we'll do well, but we've still got Churchill, CC, Glenn and Canton to fight with," Baker said. "With our distance team, (the meet format) benefits us, but CC's distance team proved as strong or stronger at the Elks Relays."

"We need a big day from our throwers (Dan Kaczmarek, Dan Stevenson, Jeff Schumacher and Rockland Johnson) and to come out of the field events with some points — and keep it rolling on the track."

CC won the Elks Relays earlier this month, took third at Saturday's Jackson Invitational and is 2-0-1 in the Catholic League's Central Division.

CC is especially strong in distance relays, but coach Tony Magni knows he needs some field event points to stand a chance.

"WE'RE NOT as strong in the field events as some of the others going in," Magni said. "I think there's going to be some darkhorses, like Farmington Harrison and Northville. They have some very good athletes and it should make for an interesting night."

Harrison, a well-balanced team from the Western Lakes Activities Association, has won two invitations.

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DAN DEAR/staff photographer

Kristyn Schulkins of Mercy makes a putt Tuesday in the Oakland County golf tournament.

Mercy golfers top state-ranked club

Farmington Hills Mercy's stock went up in girls golf Monday when the unranked Marlins won a triangular meeting involving No. 4-rated Grand Blanc.

Mercy shot 217 on the Pine Lake Gold Course in Orchard Lake, the Bobcats 228 and Birmingham Marian 244.

The Marlins followed that performance with a fourth-place finish Tuesday in the 22-school Oakland County tournament.

Mercy senior Kristyn Schulkins paced the Monday victory with a 47. Ryla Wane shot 56, Patty Cahill and Amy Schulkins 57.

Sari Gilbertson was Grand Blanc's low scorer with 52, and Karen Knysz and Molly Regan had 55 each to lead Marian.

"We have quite a few girls on the team shooting in the 50s, and we haven't had that in a long, long time,"

Mercy coach Vicky Kowalski said. "It's getting to be a big competition just to see who's going to play in the varsity matches."

The Marlins have shot 197, 203 and 210 team scores for nine holes, and Kowalski believes those totals even when doubled for an 18-hole event would be more than enough to qualify Mercy for the state tournament.

"Our scores are way down from last year, and we're just getting into the bulk of our schedule," she said. "So those scores are going to come down even more."

"The girls really want to make the state finals, and if they keep shooting like this I think they can do it."

Mercy JV coach Larry Dudek shot a hole-in-one Monday while playing a round at Pine Lake. He used a three-wood on the 155-yard second hole.

Marlins 4th in county

By Marty Budner
staff writer

Rochester coach John Bailey has organized the annual Oakland County girls golf tournament for 11 of the 12 years it has been played. On Tuesday, for the second time as tournament director, Bailey proudly handed the winning trophy to his own squad.

The Falcons had a fine afternoon on the soggy 5,546-yard Pontiac Country Club course to win with a score of 408. Troy was second, 10 strokes back, at 418. Two-time defending champion Bloomfield Hills Lahier was third at 426, followed by Farmington Mercy (434) and Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood (440).

"It's early. We've only been playing for two weeks," said Bailey. "Our scores were terrible. The course was playing real long and there was no roll."

"I thought we could be among the top three or four teams," he said. "I'm surprised we did win and was surprised by the score we had. I'm real happy with the result."

The Falcons were paced by senior co-captains Tamaira Ross and Meg Rockle who shot rounds of 94 and 96 to place among the top six overall scorers. Senior Dina Daniels chipped in with a 108 and Almee Jefferson added a 110 to round out Rochester's top four scorers.

"Ross and Rockle definitely led the way today," said Bailey. "They both did what was necessary for us to win."

"I know how hard it is at tournaments like this to have four decent scores," he said. "The secret is to have four consistent scores. Any time you can average close to 400 for four out of five girls, you're doing all right."

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North dumps WLAA champ

North Farmington chalked up its most impressive victory to date in the 1992 baseball season Monday when the host Raiders toppled defending Western Lakes Activities Association champ Westland John Glenn, 4-1.

The Raiders accomplished the win despite missing four starters, who were still gone on spring vacation.

North got another fine pitching performance from senior Mark Temple (4-0), who allowed just three hits, struck out 11 and walked one. In four games, he has 30 strikeouts.

"We had a great effort from our subs, and Mark Temple pitched one helluva game," North coach Irv Horwitz said.

Aaron Scheffer (9-3) pitched a complete game for the Rockets,

baseball

striking out seven and only walking one, too. But the four errors by the Glenn defense were more costly than North's three.

North's Alex Bitoff tied the score on a wild pitch in the fourth inning, and two more went home during a three-run sixth when a ball hit by Temple rolled between the left fielder's legs.

Jack Wilks, Mike Jolie and Temple had the North hits. Scheffer had two for Glenn.

To compensate for the absence of starters Jason Horwitz, Jon Sturtz,

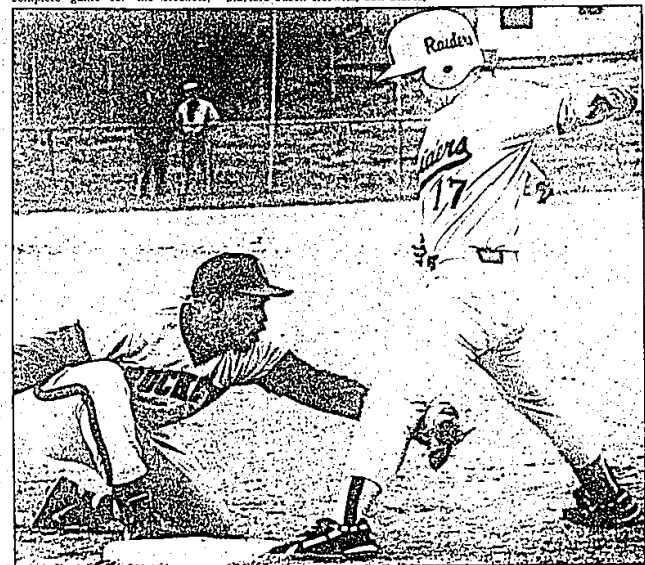
Mike Hamill and Adam Chalmers, Horwitz moved Jolie from second base to center field and Brian Lee from the outfield to first. Stepping into starting roles were Joe Danilewicz at catcher, Brett Blanchard (five putouts) at second and Bitoff in the outfield.

The Raiders are 3-1 in the WLAA Lakes Division and 6-2 overall. Glenn is 2-3 and 2-3.

• Farmington Hills Harrison rallied with four runs in the sixth inning to get within a run, (7-6) of host Walled Lake Western, but that's where the score remained in a WLAA loss Monday.

The Warriors broke a 2-2 tie with

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SHARON LAM/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Glenn first baseman Tayo Farley caught North Farmington's Ryan Moore too far off base on this play, but the Raiders won the game.

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