

Sports

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(F1C)

Observerland Relays title goes to CC

Harrison has best Farmington finish

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

When trying to inspire his runners, Redford Catholic Central track coach Tony Magni knows it's just as important to be seen as it is to be heard.

That's why during Saturday's 22nd Annual Observerland Boys' Track Relays, Magni was standing almost by himself on the north sidelines across from the press box and cheering section at Howard Kraft Field. Magni's inspiration helped as the Shamrocks edged Livonia Churchill and won their first Observerland Relays since 1982.

CC, which won the Elks Relays last month, finished with 88 points, five ahead of Churchill. Northville was third (65), followed in fourth place by Farmington Hills Harrison (48). Defending champ Plymouth Salem finished in seventh place (34).

See statistical summary.

"I don't come over here with all these people, because they can't hear me," said Magni, pointing to the cheering section. "I'm on the other side, standing by the fence, just saying 'Go.' We have a nice relay team because a lot of our kids we can put here and there in different events."

THE SHAMROCKS led Churchill by one (78-71) with only the 1,600-meter relay race remaining. CC's foursome of Marc Eden, T.J. Kitchen, Aaron Shephard and Eric McKeon not only won the 1,600 relay but they did it in a school record time of 3 minutes, 28.3 seconds.

McKeon, who earlier in the meet ran with Chris O'Keefe, Shephard and Jamie Fitzgerald on the winning distance medley relay team (11:04), ran the final leg of the 1,600.

"I didn't even look at the time (on the scoreboard)," McKeon said. "I heard Northville's runner the whole way and I just tried to run as hard as I could down the back stretch. It's the best rush."

Kitchen anticipates running an even better 1,600 relay time before the end of the year.

"It's more than a goal. We're going to break it so no one else can break it," Kitchen said.

CC won four other events: the discus relay (Mike Graywacz, Joe Sahajda and Kevin Jakubowski) threw for a combined 350 feet, 2 inches; 6,400-meter relay of Chris Kuria, Brandon Dalziel, Damon Harris and Steve Witke (10:11); Eden won the 110-meter hurdles (14.65); and the 3,200-meter relay of Witke, Dalziel, Brian O'Reilly and Harris (8:29.7).

CHURCHILL, 3-2 in dual meets, led the Observerland Relays early after scoring 35 points in the field events. Terry Howery, Brian Johnson and Jim Kramer won the high jump relay (17 feet) for Churchill and the Chargers also took second

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Redford CC trackman

place in the pole vault, shot put and discus relays.

The Chargers had two points taken away when they were disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct in the distance medley relay, but got a first place in the 1,600 run from Jeff Marius (4:29.4) and first place from its shuttle hurdle relay (Brian Muro, Jedd Thorderson, John Fabrikiewicz and Nathan Loosle).

Churchill coach Fred Price enjoyed the Observerland Relays not only because his team took second but also since he was in charge. Churchill hosted the last nine Observerland Relays.

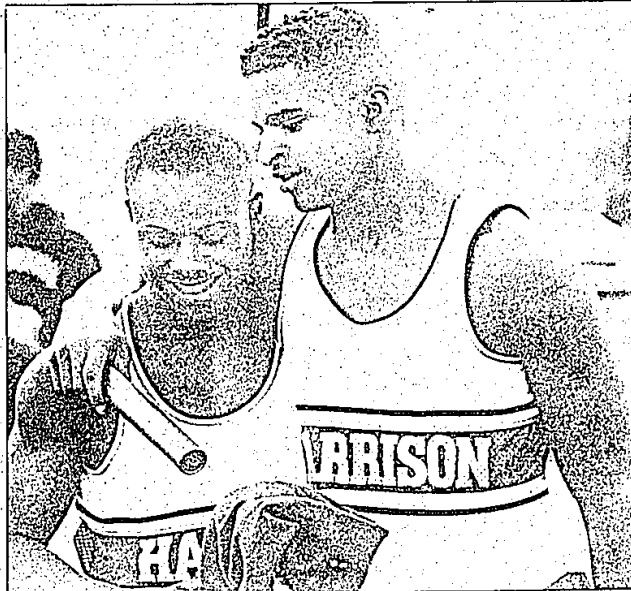
"It's easier just to coach than to try to coach and run the meet," Price said. "If you don't get first place, you take second place and be happy with it."

Perhaps Churchill's most inspiring effort came from Fabrikiewicz, a pole vaulter who filled in on the winning shuttle hurdle relay team. The win had given Churchill 10 points pulled the Chargers within seven of CC (78-71) with two events remaining.

"ON TUESDAY John said 'I think I can run the hurdles,'" Price said. "Our third hurdler (Sean Platt) is in Tennessee for a school invasion and I said John, 'Let's try it.' Let's get a pole vaulter, has good regular strides and a strong kid. It's just a case of a kid willing to try something new to help the team."

Northville made a strong push near the end as well, winning the sprint medley relay (2:32.1) and 400-meter relay (45.7). Harrison had 16 points after the field events and got 10 points with Granger's 100 dash title run to its third-place finish.

Farmington, which had 18 points for ninth place, got a victory from its pole-vault relay of Chris Marting, Brandon Richardson and Jim Poindever (14 feet). North Farmington took eighth place with 21 points and won the shot put relay behind Jeff Falcon, Very Ratliff and Brad Pawlowski (127.9). Westland John Glenn had the long-jump relay championship with Mark Kaiser, Brian Schultz and Brandon Buck (58.7) while Wayne Memorial won the 800-meter relay (4:33.7) with Steve Caldwell, Deandra Elliott, Lee Williams and Willie Bush.



Harrison High's Roy Granger (left) and Duante Anderson congratulate each other after they helped the Hawk win the 400-meter relay.

Thursday in a dual meet with Plymouth Canton. See story on Page 3C.



Roy Granger (left) of Harrison won the 100-meter dash in 10.9 seconds Saturday at the Observerland Relays. Catholic Central's Eric

McKeon (center) was second and Salem's Justin Fisher seventh.

Mercy wins 2 in row

After being stunned by a loss to Livonia Ladywood early last week, Farmington Hills Mercy came back to win consecutive Catholic League games.

The Marlin's defeated Harper Woods Regina 2-1 on Thursday and Birmingham Marian 1-0 on Wednesday. Mercy is 4-1-2 in the league and 6-3-3 overall.

Coach Deepak Shivaraman was pleased by "just the fact we were able to play better soccer. With the skill we have on this team, we should be playing good soccer throughout."

"We have a young team and selling them the mental game is the task at hand. Fifty percent of it is mental and the attitude you have before the game at this level."

Margaret Wirth and Tania Marcor scored the goals against Regina, with Heather Richards and Flannery Campbell assisting. The Spartans scored with 10 minutes left after the Marlin's had taken a two-goal lead.

Amy Watroba was in goal, and defender Ilieth Zibbro played a good game, according to Shivaraman.

Despite the victory and a 15-4 advantage in shots on goal by Mercy, Shivaraman was still concerned about his team's overall play, considering the Marlin's had beaten

Regina 6-0 in an earlier game.

"We should have dominated today's game," he said. "I stress to the team, if we're going to be a good team, we have to be consistent from beginning to end."

Antia Wilhelm scored the long goal in the Marlin's game, an assist from Wirth and Richards. Sienna DeAgostino was a standout on defense for the Marlin's.

NORTH FARMINGTON freshman Ali Lord increased her team-leading total to 15 goals with a hat trick Wednesday while leading the Raiders to a 6-1 victory over Wallied Lake Westwood. Lord also has four assists.

Andrea Meluzio, Hadley Thurmon and Carrie Reje scored the other goals for North, 2-4-1 in the W.L.A.A. and 3-4-1 overall. Sharon Sutton had two assists, Curry Perkins and Thurmon one each.

The Raiders led 2-0 at halftime and 3-0 before the Warriors scored. Julie Stone made a handful of saves in goal for North.

"We played a strong game defensively," Raiders coach Kris Galezky said. "I was very pleased with the distribution of the ball, and we had exceptional movement by the forwards."

Raiders stay on roll in baseball

North Farmington scored six runs in the bottom of the fifth inning Friday and ended its baseball game against visiting Farmington with a 13-3 mercy-rule victory.

The Raiders are 5-1 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association and 8-2 overall.

Josh Tobias pitched five innings and evened his record at 1-1 for North. Mike Shelp worked into the fifth inning for Farmington and took the loss.

Mark Temple was 3-for-3, knocked in three runs and scored three runs. Jack Wilks had two of everythings — hits, runs, stolen bases and RBI. Jason Horvitz also had two hits, scored two runs and drove in one run. Adam Chalmers added two RBI.

The Raiders also had a six-run first inning. Temple doubled to drive in a run and Horvitz had an RBI single.

Farmington's Jon Siskosky had two hits and scored a run, and Mike Raffle had two RBI and scored a run.

On Wednesday, Temple hit a three-run homer and was the winning pitcher (5-0) as North defeated Livonia Stevenson 8-6 in nine innings.

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HARRISON 3, CHURCHILL 2: Dan Hight pitched a two-hit complete game Friday and led the Hawks to a 3-1 victory over the Chargers.

The Hawks scored twice in the bottom of the seventh to overcome a 2-1 deficit. Nick Bidder scored the winning run on Jeff Cialo's suicide squeeze bunt.

Harrison is 6-3 overall and 4-3 in the division.

On Wednesday, the Hawks lost to Plymouth Canton, which moved into first place in the Western Division by averaging an earlier loss, 2-0. The win put Canton at 4-1 in the division and 7-3 overall.

Frank Learned pitched a three-hit

Keye Smith had the Harrison hits. REDFORD CC 15, DLS 13: The Shamrocks bounced back from their first loss of the season with a Central Division triumph Thursday at Warren DeLaSalle.

CC tallied seven runs in a sixth inning and two in the top of the seventh to run its overall record to 9-1 and 7-1 in the Central (Catholic League).

Brian Hicks, Scott Kapla and Paul Kuhn each collected three hits for the victorious Shamrocks.

Hicks had three RBI and scored three times. He belted a two-run homer.

Kohn also knocked in a pair of runs.

Dan Gusoff (4-0), the starter who worked 3 1/2 innings before re-entering in the sixth, was the winning pitcher.

On Wednesday, host DeLaSalle beat CC in 11 innings, 3-2, thanks to Matt Wiley's bases-loaded single.

Scott Kapla, who pitched 7 1/2 innings in relief of starter Dave Susalla (sore elbow), fell to 2-4 with the loss. He struck out 10, walked six and allowed 10 hits.

Kapla had two hits and knocked in both CC runs. Gusoff also had two hits.

Brian Gorak worked 10 innings for the Pilots, but did not get the decision.