

Off and running

North girls harriers finish division 6-0; WLAA next

Plymouth Canton is the favorite to win Friday's Western Lakes Activities Association girls cross country meet but North Farmington isn't feeling too bad about its chances, either.

"The Raiders finished a perfect season in the Lakes Division at 6-0 with Tuesday's 15-46 victory over Westland John Glenn at Oakland Community College. The Raiders, who gained the top five places, are 9-0 overall.

Kegan Keefe paced the Raiders with a winning time of 20 minutes, 23 seconds. Jamie Brenner was second (20:45), followed by Amanda Hough (21:11), Elaine Wolfe (21:33) and Becky Nupik (21:42).

The WLAA meet begins at 3 p.m. Friday at Cass Benton Park.

Hawks claw Chargers
Farmington Hills Harrison gained momentum heading into Friday's WLAA meet with Monday's 27-30 victory over Livonia Churchill at Cass Benton.

The Hawks, 4-5 overall, finished the Western Division at 3-2. Harrison coach Mark Babcock said the Hawks are confident about improving on last year's eighth-place showing at the

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WLAA meet.

"Plymouth Canton is by far the favorite but the two through four or five spots will be pretty close," Babcock said. "North Farmington, Salem, Farmington, Stevenson and Walled Lake Western will all be up there and we hope we'll be somewhere in the middle of the pack. It should be a good race with a lot of good individuals and teams."

Churchill placed the second, third and fifth runners in Monday's dual but the Hawks had six of the top 10 runners.

Allison Noe of Harrison won the race in 20 minutes, 30 seconds. Churchill's Tracy Parker placed second (21:30), teammate Erin Sharp was third (21:48) and Carole McCoy fifth (22:28).

The Hawks' Erin Schwartz took fourth (22:11), Jaime Riggs was sixth (23:02), Lisa Sokol seventh (23:54), Becky Pains ninth (25:10) and Jenny Somerville 10th (25:18). Churchill's other top 10 finish came from Melissa Johnson, who took eighth (24:30).

Salem beats Farmington

Plymouth Salem's Leah Retherford won the race to the finish line against Farmington's Dana Goba and the Rocks outlasted the Falcons in the team standings as well Monday at Cass Benton.

Salem's 34-25 victory was led by Retherford, who took first (20:29), ahead of Goba (20:45). The win moved Salem to 5-1 in the Lakes Division.

Salem's Emily Parroll was third (21:05), before Farmington runners Anne Grimaldi and Amy Cameron took fourth (21:13) and fifth (21:19), respectively. Salem's Kelly Stankov took sixth (21:36), followed by teammates Sarah Hamilton (21:43) and Kathy Jost (21:51).

Farmington's Kerl Lowry was 11th (22:59) and Sara Lidgwy was 12th (23:11). Also turning in hard-working efforts were Falcons Katie Clineard (23:18) and Pam Buha (23:28).

Mercy warms up

Farmington Hills Mercy prepared for Saturday's Catholic League meet with Tuesday's 17-38 win over Dearborn Divine Child at Marshbank Park.

Mercy will go for its third straight Catholic League championship at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Marshbank.

Eileen O'Connell took first for the Marlins against DC, coming home in 15:50. Amy Freund was second (20:04) and Mary Thewes third (20:49). Lisa Nobles finished fifth (21:42), Sarah Podorski sixth (21:48), Brandy Johnson seventh (22:40) and Amy Dingas eighth (22:59).

The Marlins on Saturday won the Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard Invitational, at Ann Arbor's Buhr Park, with 52 points. Berkley was second, Ann Arbor Pioneer third (84) and Livonia Stevenson fourth (89).

O'Connell won for the first time against Stevenson's Bridget MacKinnon. O'Connell came in first at 19:26, five seconds faster than MacKinnon. Freund was fourth (20:08), Thewes 12th (21:12) and Betsy Gignac 13th (21:18).

"It was a good time for (O'Connell) on a crappy day because rain ruined the whole meet," Mercy coach Gary Servino said. "For her to beat Bridget was a pretty good accomplishment, and I hope she can do it again at regional."

Afflerbaugh leads Falcons into league meet

The Farmington boys cross country team finished an undefeated Western Lakes Activities Association Lakes Division schedule Monday with a 20-35 victory over Plymouth Salem at Cass Benton Park.

The Falcons are 6-0 overall as they prepare for the WLAA meet which will be held at 3 p.m. Friday at Cass Benton.

"Plymouth Canton is real good, North Farmington is running real well right now and Walled Lake Western is tough year-in, year-out, but we're going to show up and run as hard as we can," Farmington coach Chip Bridges said.

Against the Rocks, the Falcons' top three runners finished within five seconds of each other. Senior Kevin Afflerbaugh crossed the line first in 17 minutes, 16 seconds, followed by junior Mike Langdon (17:17) and junior Tom May (17:21).

Salem's Andrew McDonald was fourth (17:23) and Farmington senior Jason Jackson took fifth (17:53).

Scott Pegelly placed sixth for

ROUNDUP

Salem (17:57), followed by teammates Jared Binecki (17:59) and Josh Stickney (18:01). Ian Packer of the Rocks was 10th (18:35) and teammate Russ Polcyn was 11th (18:40).

Mark Kurzer of Farmington was ninth (18:22), teammate Brett Kotzba was 12th (18:45) and John Morell placed 13th (18:45).

Raiders roll

North Farmington Westland John Glenn, 19-42, as Jeff Howie led a one-two-three sweep with a first-place time of 17:42. The Raiders finished 4-1 in the WLAA's Lakes Division.

Brian Rajal was second (17:42) and Tim Stamboulion third (17:42). Niraj Nalk placed sixth (18:25), followed by Adel Ahmad (18:29), Andrew Wantuk (18:31), Brian Kristall (18:41) and Jeremy Crane (18:56).

Glenn's Henry Honeycutt and Brandon Molitor finished fourth and fifth, respectively, with times of 18:01 and 18:21.

The Rockets finished 0-5 in the Lakes and 0-6 overall.

Hawks victorious

Farmington Harrison scored a 24-31 win over Livonia Churchill at Cass Benton.

Brothers Justin and Chad Kocma finished first and third in 17:49 and 18:23, to lead the Hawks past the Churchill boys, who finished 0-6 overall and 0-5 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Scott Oswald came in fourth place (18:27), Doug Bacon was seventh (18:52) and Mike Binn ninth (19:57).

CC 3rd at Sturgis

Redford Catholic Central, rated

No. 9 in Class A, finished third in Saturday's Sturgis Invitational as Joe Leo took third individually in 16:51.

Traverse City, rated No. 4 in Class A, won the meet with 38 points. Holly, rated No. 8, was second with 81 followed by CC (84) and No. 7-ranked Grand Rapids Christian (96).

Rounding out the CC contingent was Phil Camilleri, 12th (17:21); Brian Smith, 20th (17:35); Mike Danic, 24th (17:41); Matt Sroczynski, 25th (17:42); Jeremy Short, 29th (17:49); and Derrick Faunce, 39th (18:17).

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Northville at Liv. Stevenson: The second best matchup of the night pitting the Lakes Division runner-up Spartans (6-1) against the Western Division runner-up Northville (6-1). The Mustangs have a potent running attack, led by sophomore speedster Anell Kersey and senior fullback Bryan Kelley. Stevenson, the comeback kids, must stop Northville's ground attack to have a chance. Stevenson also needs this win worse than Northville to make the state playoffs. PICKS: Northville wins the consolation prize.

Ply. Canton at W.L. Central: The Chiefs (4-3) beat Livonia Franklin as quarterback Brett Elledge and tailback Lenny Gardner carried the load. Central (3-4) is fighting a four-game losing streak, but gave Stevenson a run before losing last week, 33-22, as backup fullback Chad Stoddard rushed for 207 yards. PICKS: Halt to the Canton Chiefs' rings out.

W.L. Western at Ply. Salem: Western (3-4) has not looked good since being squashed by Northville and Farmington Harrison. The Rocks (4-3) have been rocky at times, but find a way to beat teams of their caliber. This game will give a good indication which division (Lakes or Western) is better. PICKS: Salem uses witcraft to burn Western at the stake.

Dbn. Fordson at Wayne Memorial: Fordson (5-1, 5-0) can wrap up the Mega-Red Division title outright with a victory, but the Tractors haven't exactly been blowing teams away as evidenced by last week's 12-7 squeaker over last place Woodhaven. Wayne (4-3, 3-2) can play spoiler, but the Zebras are fighting a two-game losing slide. PICKS: The Tractors pull one out.

Garden City at Redford Union (Kraft Field): Both of these Mega-White Division teams have hit the skids. GC (4-3, 3-2) is trying to rebound from last week's 16-7 loss to Taylor Kennedy, while RU (0-7, 0-5) is hoping this will be its night. Maybe the passing combo of Brian Benjamin-to-Greg Knight will break the ice. PICKS: The Cougars keep RU winless.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
(all 1 p.m. unless noted)

Liv. Franklin at N. Farmington: Both teams are 1-6. Franklin can move the ball under the direction of quarterback Greg Maple, who is com-

plemented by the running attack of Jesse Shekarian and Ron Trola. Northville, played a whole of a defensive game last week against state-ranked Glen before losing, 14-0. Watch Scott Lord and Ryan McClintch on defense. PICKS: Ermons votes for North, but O'Meara casts his lot with the Patriots.

Liv. Churchill at Farmington: If Churchill (0-7) is going to break its 34-game losing streak, this is the game. The Chargers fell victim last year to the Falcons (1-6) down the stretch, after having control most of the game. Farmington has the home field advantage. PICKS: The Falcons avoid post-Sir Winston.

D.H. Annapolis at Red. Thurston: The Cougars (0-7, 0-6) are the absolute worst among 20 teams in the Mega Conference. Thurston (5-2, 4-2) has a slim chance of making the playoffs in Class 5B, but the Eagles won't get any bonus points from winless Annapolis. PICKS: It's a happy homecoming for the Eagles.

Bishop Borgese vs. Allen Park, Canby (1:30 p.m. at Garden City Junior High): The Spartans (1-6, 1-3) snapped a two-year drought by beating Southgate Aquinas last week, 20-6. It was also only James' first victory as head coach. Canby, coached by former Notre Dame quarterback Terry Andrysiak, is 1-6 overall and 0-4 in the Tri-Sectional. PICKS: Borgese wins its second straight.

St. Agatha vs. Det. East Catholic (7:30 p.m. at RU's Kraft Field): The Aggies (3-4, 1-3) have been Daw Jones kind of team this year — up and down. They gave Center Line St. Clement a tussle last week before losing 21-15. East Catholic (5-2, 2-2), rated No. 7 in Class 6D, is fighting for a playoff spot in Region IV. PICKS: It won't be easy, but East Catholic stays in the playoff hunt.

SUNDAY'S GAME

Redford CC at Harper Wds. Notre Dame (2:30 p.m.): The state-ranked Shamrocks (6-1, 3-0) already have a spot wiggled up in the Prep Bowl, while these Fighting Irish (4-3, 1-2) lost last week to Country Day, 26-6. Only Lou Hotz, Jeff Burns, Bryant Young and Rudy could put this one out of the hat for Notre Dame. PICKS: CC wins under the tarnished dome. Why isn't O'Meara backing his brothers?

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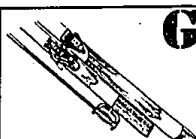
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