

Falcons capture invite title

City
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Farmington had some kind of a running start in the girls cross country season Saturday, winning the Division II championship at the West Bloomfield Invitational.

The Falcons scored 69 points to finish 21 ahead of defending champ North Farmington (90) and well in front of the host Lakota (113).

Eighteen teams competed in the division for small Class A schools.

Farmington was somewhat of an unknown since five of its varsity runners Saturday hadn't run high school cross country previously.

"I see them in practice every day and see what they can do," coach Liz Zynda said, "but you want to get to a race before you open your mouth."

"All seven of our runners were in the top half of 136 runners, so that says a lot about our team and the depth we have."

The Falcons were led by freshman Kate Adams and junior Anne Grimaldi, who finished fifth (20:49) and eighth (21:06), respectively.

"I told them the strategy was to be in the top 20 at the start, so they didn't get caught in back," Zynda said. "I didn't want them to be the front-runners either, because I didn't think they were ready for that."

"But they went out strong and were in the top 10. That made me nervous, but they held on and

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stayed there."

Dana Goble placed 12th (21:19), Natalie Dawson 19th (22:08) and Alina Hloznik 26th (22:29). Theresa Derwinaki was 30th (23:10) and Ellen Adams 45th (23:27).

"I was really pleased with the results. It shows us where we are at this point in the season," Zynda said.

NOV RACE WINNER
Harrison senior Allison Noe was the Division I individual champion at the West Bloomfield Invitational with a 20:18 time.

"Her first two mile splits were the best she's had," Harrison coach Hank Babcock said. "The third mile she was out there by herself, and it's hard to concentrate when there's nobody around you. But she still ran a pretty good time."

Saline was first and the Hawks sixth in the 21-team (small school) division. Erin Schwartz was 38th (22:49) for Harrison, Jenny Hannawa 42nd (23:12), Jenny Somerville 54th (23:33), Allison Gordon 56th (23:34) and Annie Jud 58th (23:49).

"We wanted to get a trophy (the top five did), but it was a personal record for everybody in that group," Babcock said. "They ran their best times by 30 seconds to a minute."

NORTH COACH PLEASED
The Raiders settled for runner-up

honors instead of a championship trophy this year, but coach Bill Pinnell was encouraged by his team's showing in Division II.

"We ran 18 girls and all of them ran personal records," he said. "Most of the girls improved their times from the first dual meet by 30 seconds to a minute."

North sophomore Jaime Brenner was seventh (20:59). Amanda Hough 13th (21:29), Elaine Wolff 18th (22:05), Kerrie Simpson 23rd (22:18), Becky Naglik 29th (22:43), Monica Czerwinski 40th (23:17) and Ava Lala 41st (23:18).

"They improved as much as I anticipated they would," Pinnell said. "Our second through seventh runners were 1:49 apart. That's a pretty good pack. If the others start moving up closer to Amanda, we'll be a team to contend with."

IN MARLINS START WITH WIN
Farmington Hills Mercy began its dual-meet season Tuesday with a 22-37 win over rival Livonia Ladywood at Cess Benton Park.

Mercy senior Eileen O'Connell was first (19:51), Brandy Johnson second (22:41), Lisa Nobles fifth (23:12), Amy Dinges sixth (23:22), Melissa Tluczek eighth (23:39), Nancy Lowry ninth (24:35) and Melissa Andrzejak 10th (24:57).

The Marlins finished eighth Saturday in the Division III race for large Class A schools at the West Bloomfield Invitational.

Sterling Heights Stevenson won with 90 points. Monroe (92), Troy Athens (116), Mount Clemens Chippewa Valley (178) and Troy (180) were in the top five. Mercy scored 222.

O'Connell was second overall with a 19:20 time, finishing behind an Ohio girl who ran 19:12.

O'Connell and teammate Beasty Gignac, who was 27th (21:19), received medals. Johnson was 56th (22:27), Dinges 67th (22:53) and Nobles 68th (22:54).

Hawks win tiebreaker

Just as it did two years, Harrison won a sixth-man tiebreaker from North to capture the boys title.

Harrison finished the five-man race with 36 points each, the Falcons 53. But Matt Hana provided the winning edge, placing 14th (19:25) for the Hawks while Jon Perry was 17th (19:35) for North.

"We knew it was going to be a team effort," Harrison coach John Reed said. "This year we're going to be good as a team."

Despite a little recovery time from a third-place showing at West Bloomfield, the Hawks ran in a tight pack.

Chad Koonce was fourth (17:57), Justin Koonce fifth (18:03), Scott Oswald eighth (18:26), Todd Haney ninth (18:41) and Mike Bin 10th (18:48).

"We won this meet with seniors," Reed said, adding four of the five are seniors. "We had extra motivation because everybody seemed to forget this was the third Harrison victory in the last four years."

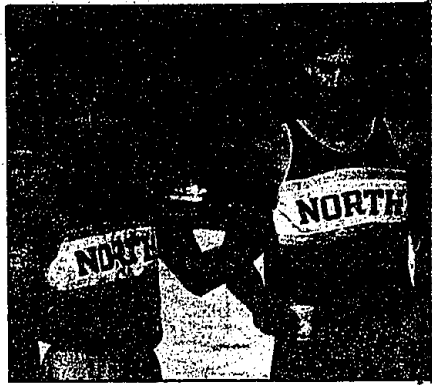
"We don't have any superstars, but we definitely have a nice five and with a little more rest we're going to be even better."

North scored early points as Brian Rajdl followed Stamboulain and May in third place (17:47). Niraj Naik was seventh (18:18), Brian Kristal 12th (19:14) and Steve Chen 13th (19:24).

The Raiders have been running up three straight years, losing two tiebreakers to Harrison

Shamrocks fare well at W. Bloomfield

The Redford Catholic Central boys cross country team surpassed coach Tony Magni's expectations Saturday with a third-place finish at the West Bloomfield Invitational.



City champ: Tom Stamboulain (left) was the boys individual winner Tuesday, and teammate Brian Rajdl finished third.

and 34-35 to Farmington a year ago.

"From looking at Saturday's results, our group moved up considerably," Welch said. "We were six points back of Harrison, and we were able to tie them here."

"I'm sure as the season progresses, we're going to be right up there."

Welch said Naik ran much better than expected, finishing ahead of Harrison's third man.

In addition to May for Farmington, Mike Langdon placed sixth (18:13), Nick Sertic 11th (19:05), Tripp Adams 16th (19:27)

and Jason Jaeger 19th (19:56).

"We have some guys who are physically capable of moving up, but haven't been there in the past," Farmington coach Chip Bridges said.

"They've been the fourth, fifth or sixth guys, and now they have to be the first or second guy. They haven't made the adjustment yet, but I'm confident as the season goes along they'll move up where they should be."

Bridges cited the race by Sertic, who improved his time from a year ago (20:13) by more than a minute.

The Shamrocks, who had four runners in the top 33, took third with 130 points. Traverse City was first with 61 followed by Monroe (83).

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Sources: 1993 CAC, analysis of 1993 ABC.