

# 2nd place common link for runners

Farmington teams performed well Saturday despite rainy, muddy conditions to earn three second-place finishes in cross-country invitational.

The Farmington High girls were runners-up at Hasket, taking a back seat to Holt (40) but scoring better than 17 other teams with 112 points, including the host school (141).

"I was worried going into the meet, because it was the day of homecoming," coach Liz Zynda said. "Five of the girls were going (to the dance) and I was afraid they might be preoccupied."

Furthermore, the Falcons were minus three of their top runners due to injury.

Dana Gobe was in a car accident but not seriously hurt. Natalie Dawson couldn't run because of a bad knee, and Alina Hentnik continues to recover from pneumonia.

But the Farmington girls showed Zynda's concerns to be groundless and overcame the injury situation.

The Falcons were led by Kate Adams and Anne Grimaldi, who were fifth (20:37) and seventh (20:48), respectively.

Theresa Derwinski moved up third in the order, finishing 18th (21:40). Aimee Cameron was 31st (22:29) and Ellen Adams 31st (22:56).

"I told the girls we had some gaps, but we could do well if they filled the gaps — and they did very well," Zynda said. "The conditions were not very favorable,

## X-COUNTRY

but the girls came through with flying colors."

**MAVENS CONSIDERED**  
Harrison was second at the Redford Union Invitational, scoring 69 points to finish behind Walled Lake Central (63) and ahead of the host team (70).

"We're happy with how we performed," coach John Reed said. "I think my kids are starting to run the same kind of effort every time out, and that's a good sign for us. It's very difficult to win every invitational, but it's easy to finish first one week and fall flat on your face the next."

"This means we're a steady, even-paced team. We're establishing a pattern of not being erratic, and when you get that you're going to see steady improvement," coach John Reed said.

Chad Koonce and Todd Hancy paced Harrison, finishing eighth (17:23) and ninth (17:33), respectively. Justin Koonce was 11th (17:39), Scott Oswald 19th (18:01) and Mike Bis 22nd (18:04).

**MAVENS WIN AGAIN**  
Senior Ellen O'Connell paced Farmington Hills Mercy to its fourth straight dual-meet victory in the Catholic League Tuesday.

She ran her best time of the year at Case Benton Woods, winning the race in 19:26 as the Marlins whipped Riverview Gabriel 18-0.

Mercy's top five included Emily Rottingham (19:11), Lisa Nobles (22:03), Brandy Johnson (22:34) and Amy Diagne (22:37).

The Marlins also took the next three places with Mandy Phelps (22:40), Michelle Thompson (22:41) and Jackie Segue (22:54).

"We're hoping to take a minute off our time and run like that again Saturday at the county meet," coach Gary Serrano said.

O'Connell also won the Schoenewe Memorial Invitational Saturday at Center Line with an 18:33 time in the rain.

"I'm looking forward to Saturday and seeing her run against the other top kids," Serrano said. "I like the idea of no classes. Everybody lines up together, and you get to see who the top people in Oakland County are."

Rottingham was 17th (20:28) at Center Line, Nobles 26th (20:56), Johnson 35th (21:09), Diagne 4th (21:50) and Thucak 49th (21:56). The top 50 got medals.

The Marlins were fourth in the team standings after Livonia Stevenson, Monroe and Grosse Pointe South.

**RAIDERS RUN IN PACE**  
Sophomore James Brenner placed fifth with a 20:55 time Saturday to lead the North Farmington girls to second place at the Redford Union Invitational.

The Raiders were bunched together the way a bunch of kids in the top 15. It was the first time this year the top five had less than a minute between them. The top 15 runners received medals, the next 15, ribbons.

Kerris Simpson was 10th (21:19), Amanda Hough 11th (21:29), Wolf 16th (21:45) and Becky Naglik 16th (21:53).

"Considering the course conditions and weather, I was very pleased with the time and performance," coach Bill Pinnell said. "I felt we moved a little closer to Novi than we were the previous week at Walled Lake Western."

Novi was first with 23 points and North second with 57.

**NOE LEADS HARRISON**  
Senior Allison Noe was second overall to lead the third-place Harrison girls at the IU Invitational.

Noe was just under 20 minutes off-

diely with a 19:59.53 time and was second only to Novi sophomore Laura Camp, who ran 19:57.12.

"They have a good rivalry and they're friends, but they push each other hard," Harrison coach Mark Babcock said.

Harrison's Nikki Herman was 19th (22:24), Allison Gordon 23rd (22:54), Erin Schwartz 27th (23:00) and Jennifer Hanneau 29th (23:19).

"Six kids ran their best times ever under those (wet and muddy) conditions," Babcock said. "We were trying to be in the top three. All things considered, it was a pretty successful day."

**FALCONS MAKE GAINS**  
Farmington boys coach Chip Bridges was encouraged by what he saw from his team Saturday during a seventh-place finish at the Hasket Invitational.

"This is the best we've ever run as a team," he said. "We're finally starting to see some time drops, and I think we have some big gains left. It's exciting because I saw a spark I think is going to bear fruit for us."

Tom May paced the Falcons, finishing sixth in 17:11. Mike Langston was 33rd (18:02), Travis Adams 54th (18:44), Nick Sertic 60th (18:53), Jason Jager 60th (19:05) and John Norrell 70th (19:07).

"It was nice to see Tom May get in the top 10; he belongs up there," Bridges said.

"At the mile, he was about 40th. That's not always bad because most courses are wide open. This was such a narrow course I was worried he might never get up there, but he did a great job of maintaining his concentration and rhythm."

Redford Catholic Central's Joe Leo won the race in 16:41 and the Shamrock 80 were second in team scoring behind Brighton (46).

Phil Camilleri was seventh (17:10), Matt Szymanski 15th (17:21), Derrick Faunce 21st (17:28) and Mike Deni 36th (18:08).

# This year it's true; Lakes has balance



It's looking as if North Farmington football coach Jim O'Leary was right.

He predicted every team in the Lakes Division would have a loss, and the results of last weekend went a long way toward proving him correct.

North's 6-0 upset of Livonia Stevenson and Westland John Glenn's 20-17 overtime win over Farmington mean every school has lost a game but Glenn.

It's become a cliché, one we hear every year. In August, coaches always say their league (division) is the most balanced they've seen it.

No, wait a minute. I don't think John Herrington ever had to say that about the Western Division.

But back to the Lakes. This year I think it's true. A few weeks ago it seemed any of the six had a chance to win it. Now I'd say the top five are pretty equal, and the scores from the last three weeks tend to support that.

Farmington, Stevenson, North and Walled Lake Central were 2-0 when it started, but the only team (Glenn) to start the season 0-2 is leading the pack.

Glenn has dominated the division, but North and either Salem or Stevenson have given the Rockets competition in the past. The emergence of Farmington and Stevenson as legitimate contenders has made this year's division race the most contested I've covered in eight seasons.

This is the way things stand with two games remaining: 1. Glenn, 3-0; 2. Farmington and Stevenson, 2-1; 4. North and Plymouth Salem, 1-3; 6. Central, 0-3.

Remaining games for each team: Glenn, Stevenson and Salem; Farmington, Central and Stevenson; Stevenson, Glenn and Farmington; North, Salem and Central; Salem, North and Glenn; Central, Farmington and North.

Despite its disappointing loss to Glenn — now the favorite to win the division for the eighth time since 1985 — Farmington can still finish first. But the Falcons will need some help.

Farmington must win its last two and Glenn lose twice. The odds are against it, but I think it could happen, this year. It's even possible we could have four teams tied at 3-2: Glenn, Farmington, Stevenson and either North or Salem.

Though it didn't end well for the Falcons, I think the game with Glenn was the most exciting I've seen at Farmington High.

I've witnessed Farmington wins over Walled Lake Central, and they were big at the time but only because the Falcons weren't winning as much then. But the Glenn game was ex-

citing for the fans because it was suspenseful; the game was on the line and the outcome in doubt until the very end. It was fun, it was good football and Farmington was part of it.

Furthermore, the Falcons competed and might have won the game against one of the two perennial powers in the WLAA, one of the state's top programs.

But Farmington coach Hank Niskanen won't be satisfied with morale victories, and neither should his players.

The Falcons have to realize one loss can't ruin a season. There are still some worthy goals to be reached. The challenge is maintain their mental toughness.

"Walled Lake Central could care less whether we won or lost," Niskanen said last Saturday. "In six days we'll get rid of the bad taste, line up and play again."

"We've still got four more games; we're still in the championship run; we haven't conceded anything yet."

All three Farmington teams are in the running for a playoff berth, and it's possible three of the four berths in Class A Region 3 could eventually go to Farmington, Harrison and North.

Farmington was the last unbeaten team in the region and remains No. 2 despite its loss.

If the playoff teams were determined today, defending Class A champ Harrison wouldn't qualify. The Hawks are No. 5, but that will improve in the final three weeks as long as Harrison keeps winning.

The Hawks play Plymouth Canton (3-2) next week, will gain points if they win the WLAA championship and the ninth game with unbeaten Oxford will put them over the top.

Harrison's playoff situation is hurt by the fact every Western Division team lost its non-league season opener and the Hawks were the only one to win their WLAA crossover. Plus, their three division foes thus far are a combined 2-13.

North greatly improved its situation by beating Stevenson. The Raiders are 3-2 and actually No. 6 in the region (not No. 9 as listed this week) with an average of 62.2 points.

The Raiders boosted their image by knocking off Stevenson after losing two straight (by five total points) to Glenn and Farmington. North might even be 5-0 if not for a costly mistake in each one of those games.

The Raiders are playing tough defense as is their tradition, allowing no more than one touchdown in any game.

# Harrison grad lifts S'craft into soccer tie

By C.J. RIAK  
STAFF WRITER

Perhaps it takes the worst to bring out the best.

The situation facing Schoolcraft College's women's soccer

team could not have been any worse. Consider this:

The Lady Ocelots had a 2-0 lead, lost it, then found themselves trailing by a goal five minutes into the first of two mandato-

ry 15-minute overtimes;

The team they were losing to had their third, the No. 10 seed, lead between them and an NJCAA Tournament berth — College of DuPage (Glen Ellyn,

Ill.), a team they had lost to once already by a 2-0 score;

And it was pouring. The muddy field was dotted with puddles, which made footing treacherous and running weight-

ed.

Under the burden of so much physical and mental strain, it would be understandable — almost forgivable — if a team let up. But SC refused, overcoming the odds and finally punching in a goal with eight minutes left in the second OT to forge a 3-3 tie Saturday at SC.

Karyn Price (from Farmington Harrison) was the hero for the Ocelots, knocking in the tying goal out of a scramble in front of the DuPage net. It was the sophomore's second goal of the match, her first gave SC a 1-0 lead in the game's 12th minute.

"I think they played great," said SC coach Nikki Johnson. "I thought they did a great job. They really wanted to play today."

That may have been the case early, but by the second half SC seemed worn out trying to protect its 2-1 lead. Six minutes after Price's first goal, Holly Kimble (Livonia Stevenson) gave the Ocelots a 2-0 advantage, but it lasted just one minute. DuPage answered a minute later, trimming the SC lead to one.

When DuPage tied it on Debbie Papenbrook's putback of a rebound midway through the second half, the Ocelots looked spent.

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