

Harrison girls win 6th straight

Farmington Hills Harrison won the championship of the Milan Relays for the sixth consecutive year Saturday in girls track.

It was the second first-place finish at a major meet in as many weeks for the Hawks, who won the Novi Relays a week earlier.

The Hawks scored 110 points, followed by South Lyon (90), Pinckney (88), Howell (56), Milan (32) and Willow Run (20).

Mandi Berg, Patti Dizon and Kerstin Andrzejewski gave Harrison first place in the discus (237-6) and shot put (87-3) relays.

Monique Anderson, Devron Kennedy and Daniela Jacques combined with Amy Jenkins to win in the sprint medley (1:56.3) and Erika Greene the 400 relay (53.3).

Harrison won the puddle-jumper relay (6:48.1) in which Dizon ran the 500 hurdles, Jenny Lapinski 750 meters, Allison Noe 800 and Kristine Knutson 400.

The Hawks also had firsts from Jenny Hannawa, Noe, Amy Schaner and Kristin Schleicher in the 6,400 relay (23:49) and Greene, Sarah Hone, Jenkins and

TRACK

Dizon in the shuttle hurdle relay (1:09.8).

MAJORITY WIN DUAL MEET

Farmington Hills Mercy won its first Catholic League meet, defeating Dearborn Divine Child 73-55 Tuesday at Mercy. The Marlins are 2-1 in duals.

Ellen O'Connell was a double winner in the 800 and 1,600 runs with respective times of 2:30.9 and 6:17.4.

Amy Buhl, who won the 100 hurdles (1:03.3) and O'Connell also helped Mercy win a relay.

Lisa Nobles was a member of three relays as the Marlins swept first place in all four.

Jamila Jackson, Rhahida Rudolph and Lynn Trocky combined with Buhl in the 400 (54.3) and Nobles in the 800 (1:58.6).

Mandy Phelps and Nobles connected with O'Connell and Brandy Johnson in the 1,600 (6:22.9), Betsy Gignac and Jackie Segue in the 3,200 (10:47.5).

The Marlins also had firsts in the shot put from Shavonn Farr (30-7) and Katy Telford in the discus (93-2).

On Friday, O'Connell set a meet record in the 800 run with a 2:22.1 time at the Jackson Invitational, breaking the record of 2:25.5 by Flint Northern's

Caryssa Isabelle in 1983.

O'Connell also won the 1,600 run (5:26) and Buhl the 100 hurdles (1:03.0).

Nobles and O'Connell joined Gignac and Segue to give Mercy second in the 3,200 relay (10:17.8), Johnson and La-Quette Freeman for third in the 1,600 (4:17.0). Telford was third in the discus (93-4).

Mercy was fourth in the nine-team meet. Grand Blanc won with 104 points, followed by Kalamazoo Central (97), Jackson Lutheran Central (76) and the Marlins (72).

RAIDERS SUD IN RELAYS

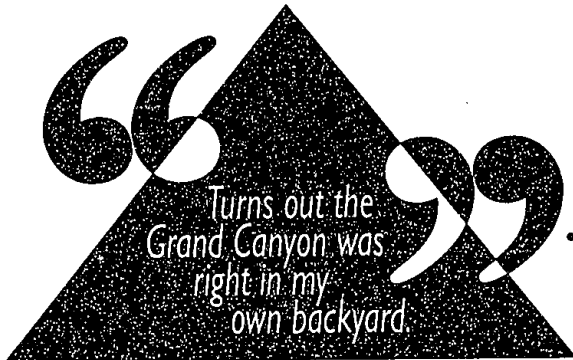
North Farmington had the best finish at the West Bloomfield Relays, placing third behind Detroit Cass Tech (70) and Southfield (48) with 43 points Saturday.

Allaha Gordon won the discus (123-2) and shot put (35-9). Devonte Pina was third in the discus (108-9), and Heather Burcar was sixth in the long jump (15-9).

The shuttle hurdle team of Stephanie Auld, Michelle Marrow, Katie Atto and Katie Callahan was second (15:20.8). Gordon was fifth in the open 100 hurdles (1:16.6).

The Raiders earned fifth place in two other relays.

Ava Laine and Monica Caserwinski teamed with Carrie May and Burcar in the sprint medley (4:30.06), and 6,400 (4:22.8) relay and with Allison Branson and Erika Anderson in the 400 (53.03).



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GIRLS CITY MEET
Tuesday at N. Farmington

Team scores: 1. Farmington Hills Harrison, 81; North Farmington, 61; 3. Farmington, 30.

High jump: 1. Andrea Saylor (F), 5-4; 2. Carrie May (F), 4-10; 3. Michelle Marrow (F), 4-10; 4. Larshae Sawyer (F), 4-8.

Discus: Allaha Gordon (F), 124-6; 2. Devonte Pina (F), 113-9; 3. Kim Westwood (F), 90-10; 4. Patti Dizon (F), 83-0.

Long jump: 1. Krista Snow (F), 18-5; 2. Heather Burcar (F), 16-1; 3. Rachel Buckley (F), 14-7; 4. Erika Greene (F), 14-5.

Shot put: 1. Allaha Gordon (F), 35-9; 2. Kim Westwood (F), 32-4; 3. Mandi Berg (F), 30-8; 4. Melissa Cruz (F), 29-10.

Shot put: 1. Harrison (Erika Greene, Sarah Hone, Amy Jenkins, Patti Dizon), 111-2; 2. Farmington, 114-5; 3. N. Farmington, 117-3.

3,200-meter relay: 1. Harrison (Kristin Schuecher, Jenny Lapinski, Sarah Rucker, Allison Noe), 10:54.2; 2. N. Farmington, 11:07.2; 3. Farmington, 11:26.7.

100 yards: 1. Devon Kennedy (F), 12.0; 2. Monica Caserwinski (F), 13.17; 3. Monique Anderson (F), 13.39; 4. Kristin Cook (F), 13.53.

100 hurdles: 1. Krista Snow (F), 18.07; 2. Allaha Gordon (F), 18.32; 3. Erika Greene (F), 17.43; 4. Stacy Daichoff (F), 17.67.

800 relay: 1. N. Farmington (Monica Caserwinski, Carrie May, Erika Anderson), 1:59.6; 2. Harrison, 1:56.9; 3. Farmington, 1:59.6.

1,600 run: 1. Allison Noe (F), 5:45.0; 2. Amy Ginnick (F), 5:50.0; 3. Kristin Schuecher (F), 5:51.9; 4. Natalie Dawson (F), 5:57.6.

400 relay: 1. Harrison (Devron Kennedy, Monique Anderson, Erika Greene, Krista Snow), 53.8; 2. N. Farmington, 53.95; 3. Farmington, 57.2.

400 yards: 1. Heather Burcar (F), 1:01.6; 2. Ava Laine (F), 1:04.2; 3. Amy Jenkins (F), 1:04.6; 4. Arnee Cameron (F), 1:05.7.

200 hurdles: 1. Patti Dizon (F), 50.9; 2. Jenny Phelps (F), 53.55; 3. Monique Bush (F), 53.96; 4. Brittany Dixon (F), 54.07.

800 run: 1. Allison Noe (F), 2:36.7; 2. Kristin Schuecher (F), 2:42.3; 3. Elaine West (F), 2:44.3; 4. Jackie Werts (F), 2:44.3.

200 yards: 1. Devon Kennedy (F), 26.7; 2. Monica Caserwinski (F), 27.25; 3. Heather Burcar (F), 27.54; 4. Monique Anderson (F), 27.59.

3,200 run: 1. Allison Noe (F), 12:18.1; 2. Arnee Cameron (F), 12:41.3; Natalie Dawson (F), 13:08.4; 4. Amanda Hough (F), 13:23.3.

1,800 relay: 1. N. Farmington (Heather Burcar, Carrie May, Tracie Trocky, Ava Laine), 4:22.91; 2. Harrison, 4:24.86; 3. Farmington, 4:48.91.

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original Observer articles about the event.

Ambrose was the head timer for the first Observerland Relays, held on May 1, 1971. There are no current coaches who coached in the first Observerland Relays, but Price and Jerry Young (Farmington) are recently retired.

Another recognizable name from the first program is current RU boys' basketball coach Homer Smathers, who must have earned his nickname "Tip" a few years later.

"Really top-notch track people have not only run in the meet, but officiated," Gibbons said. "I'm kind of a history buff and it's interesting to go through this."

Churchill has been the most successful team at the Observerland Relays, winning seven times and tying for first once with Livonia Stevenson. The changes would be three relay teams (from 1976 through '78).

The last decade has been more balanced, with Churchill, CC, Westland John Glenn and Plymouth Salem each winning twice and Plymouth Canton and Wayne Memorial once each.

Farmington High won the inaugural Observerland Relays, which was co-founded by Kraft and John Mackenzie, the RU coach at the time.

Price believes the Observerland Relays helped put Churchill's program on the right, uh, track.

"It was our first year with a varsity team, we were kind of overwhelmed and went over them without a clue and came away with a huge high jump trophy and

just missed with the long jump." Price recalled. "As the school got larger, the team got larger. It was the kind of meet where the kids who didn't always get to participate in duals were getting points. It built depth because the third guy was just as important as the first. Traditionally, we'd always do well in the field events and people were trying to catch us at the rest of the night."

Who can forget the '89 Observerland Relays when Churchill got far enough ahead in the field events and no one could catch the Chargers because snow and hail started falling.

The inclement weather caused cancellation of the last few events, awarding the championship to the Chargers.

One of the features of the Observerland Relays is running the finals under the lights. Some of the relays have turned into all-day outings and the runners have come prepared.

"The kids have brought their tents, cooked hot dogs," Price said. "It's like a Michigan football game, more than a happening than a meet."

Relays help track coaches realize what has all coaches go through as they try to juggle their pitching rotations.

"I've always enjoyed watching coaches place kids in different events, trying to find the right rotation," Magni said. "You wonder, after a kid runs a four-mile relay, can he come back and run the open mile? This is a fun meet."

Hawks among favorites

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Is this Farmington Hills Harrison's year to win the Observerland Relays?

The Hawks may have won last year were it not for a disqualification in the shuttle hurdle relay. Harrison settled for a second-place finish behind champion Plymouth Salem, but appears to be more balanced than the rest of this year's 25th anniversary field.

Expected to provide the biggest challenges are Northville, Westland John Glenn, Salem and Redford Catholic Central.

Wayne Memorial, which wasn't sure it would have a team this season because of pay-to-play, could score well in the sprint events.

Harrison is 3-0 in dual meets and has a strong contingent of sprinters, led by junior Jason Granger, seniors Kevin Bryson and Ethan Alloe and junior Jeff Aschoff.

The Hawks have the best times in Observerland in both the 400-meter relay (43.9 seconds) and 800 relay (1:32.6). Granger also will be a favorite in the open 100 meter race, along with Redford Union's senior Greg Knight.

Each has turned in times of 10.9 this season, which is the best time in Observerland.

Bryant should be involved in an interesting battle in the open 110-meter hurdles against Westland John Glenn's Todd Peterson and Wayne's Ken Riley. Peterson has run an Observerland best time of 14.6, followed by Riley (14.9) and Bryant (15.1).

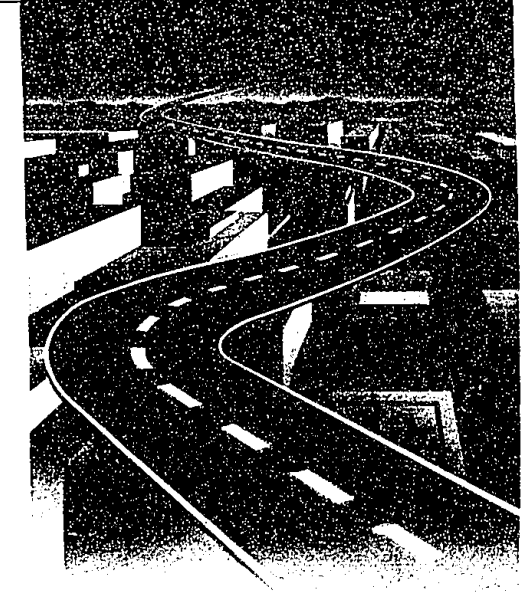
"We're going to make a serious attempt to go for it," Harrison coach John Reed said. "We're healthy and going to take all our kids — we haven't been at full strength yet this year. But you never know. From what I hear, Northville is real good. There seems to be a lot of good teams out there."

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do," North coach Bill Pinnell said, adding Harrison has a "very solid team" and was favored.

"We went against them with our best lineup. There wasn't much we could have changed to get any more points. The closest I figured we could get was within 10."

"I was hoping Farmington would cut into them a little more in some areas where we couldn't."



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