

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1995



Harrison boys rule 'A' regional



Harrison High didn't plan on winning a regional championship in boys track, but that's just what the Hawks did Saturday. It was their first such title since 1988. Harrison also qualified in seven events for the state finals.

Farmington Hills Harrison boys track coach John Reed was sitting with his team Saturday at the West Bloomfield regional meet, watching Nick Shaleb compete in the discus. A competitor from another team walked by and told the Hawks how well they were doing and they had a shot of winning the regional — something Harrison hadn't done since 1988.

"There were about 20 minutes left in the meet, and we were watching Nick win the discus," Reed said. "After we heard that comment, we began adding up the points and realized we did have a shot to win the regional."

After tallying the points, Reed discovered his team was the regional champion.

Harrison finished with 72 points, beating perennial power Detroit Cooley, which was second with 60. Rochester followed with 59 and Farmington and Southfield-Lathrup tied with 47.

Winning the regional was not the goal of the Hawks, who finished seventh last year and fourth at the Observerland Relays two weeks ago.

"When we go to regionals, we just try to concentrate on performing well and getting as many kids as possible qualified for the state meet," Reed said. "We weren't worrying about points, but when we found out we won it was a nice surprise."

"The team was fresh and mentally prepared. I thought, with the type of kids we have and with their talent, we had a chance to win it. It was just a matter of putting it all together and getting a team."

The Hawks qualified for the state meet in seven different events. Jason Granger was the most impressive, qualifying in four.

Another highlight for Harrison was the second-place 800-meter relay team of Granger, Eban Allos, Kevin Bryant and Jerrad Johnson, which qualified with a time of 1:30.1 and broke the Harrison record (1:32.6) by more than two seconds.

The same foursome qualified for

the state meet by winning the 400 relay in 44.5.

Granger also qualified in the long jump with a fourth-place leap of 21-4/8 and the 100 dash with a second-place time of 11.1.

Other state qualifiers for the Hawks were Shaleb, who won the discus (139-2), Doug Brodski, who was second in the high jump (6-2), and Kevin Bryant, who won the high hurdles (14.6).

In addition to those who qualified, the Hawks used strong performances to run away with the regional.

Nick Shaleb (47-1) and Steve Shaleb (44-10/8) finished third and fifth, respectively, in the shot put. Steve Catherman was sixth in the 100 (16.1) and 300 hurdles (42.3).

The other Hawks who scored were Allos, fourth in the 200 (23.8), and Chad Koonce, sixth in the 1,600 (4:53).

Farmington's fourth-place finish was a fine accomplishment, according to coach Chip Bridges.

"It's actually where I expected we'd finish," Bridges said. "We were fifth last season, and I thought we'd be at least as good, if not better, than we were last year."

Three Falcons qualified for the state meet in four events, led by senior Corey Minous.

Minous won the shot put with his last throw. His heave of 49-7/8 allowed him to forget last season's regional performance in which he missed qualifying by less than a foot. Minous also qualified in the discus, with a throw of 130-7.

Scott McKay qualified for the state meet in the pole vault for the second straight year, reaching a height of 12-2.

Senior Tom Mey, who qualified as a sophomore as part of a 3,200 relay team, qualified with a second-place finish in the 800 run (2:00.7). Mey went out strong but was nipped at the end — losing by just a third of a second.

See BOYS TRACK, 5C



JIM JACOBFIELD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Regional champ: Harrison senior Kevin Bryant won the high hurdles with a season-best time of 14.8 seconds Saturday.

Hawks place 2nd; Gordon double winner

BY DAN O'MEARA

Farmington Hills Harrison's Krista Snow earned a coveted state-meet berth, and the Hawks placed second in a Class A girls track regional Saturday.

Harrison was runner-up to perennial power Southfield with only nine points separating the two, 69-60.

North Farmington placed fifth, Farmington Hills Mercy tied for eighth and Farmington High was 11th in the 16-school meet.

Farmington girls won four regional titles — two by North senior Alisha

TRACK

Gordon in the shot put and discus. Farmington's Andrea Salzer won the high jump and Mercy's Amy Buhl the 100-meter hurdles.

"I wasn't paying much attention to the score," Harrison coach Mark Babcock said. "I thought we were having a good showing; I didn't know if we would win the meet, but I thought we would be near the top."

"Sixty points is the most we've ever scored in a regional meet, even when we were Class B, and we're real happy

about that." After being unable to compete last year because of a back injury and failing to qualify by a mere step as a sophomore, Snow will go to state in the 300 hurdles.

She was second in that event and just missed in the 100 hurdles, finishing third. Babcock and others timed her at 15.8 — the qualifying standard — but her official time was rounded to 16 seconds.

Snow also qualified as the anchor runner on the 400 relay team, which placed second (50.4) as Harrison broke its week-old school record of

50.9. Devon Kennedy, Monique Anderson and Erika Greene are the other relay members.

The Hawks have a double individual qualifier in senior Allison Noe, who was second in the 1,600 and 3,200 runs. Senior Mandi Berg also is a first-time qualifier in the shot put after placing second.

"I think Allison has a shot at placing in both events, and I think the 400 relay might have the best chance," Babcock said. "I still think we can run a little faster."

See REGIONAL, 6C



SHARON LAMBERT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

District duel: North's Kristen Kopacz battles Mercy's Katie Morrow for a 60-60 ball Wednesday in tournament play.

Gaul in national finals

Shelli Gaul of Farmington will compete Friday and Saturday in the 100-meter hurdles at the NCAA Division II women's outdoor track championships in Emporia, Kan.

Gaul was a provisional qualifier for the national meet after running a time of 14.60 in competition at Western Michigan University on May 13.

The NCAA Division II Coaches Association selected the Ferris State University senior, a former Farmington high standout, for the finals Monday.

Raiders 4th in tennis

North Farmington raised qualifying for the state championship in boys tennis Saturday by one place and two points.

The Raiders finished fourth in the Class A regional at Northville, behind the host Mustangs, Birmingham Brother Rice and Birmingham Groves.

The top three teams in each regional or any team scoring 16 points automatically qualify for the state meet.

North advanced to the semifinals at six of seven flights, but Steve Krieger was the only one to reach the finals at No. 3 singles.

"Who qualified for state was decided in the semis," North coach Dennis King said, "and who actually won the whole thing was decided in the finals."

"We had a lot of good, hard-hitting teams there, and they just played better than us. Groves is the one we should have beaten, but they did a better job than us and deserved to be there."

"Next year will be interesting, because I think we'll be strong enough to compete in any regional they put us in," he added.

Krieger defeated Farmington's Delon Mikhail (0-0) and Wall Lake Central's John Crutchfield (0-1) in the first two rounds.

In the semis, he took his first win over rival and top-seeded Mark Cuevas of West Bloomfield, 2-6, 7-5, 6-2. Krieger went three sets with Northville's Havi Mujumdar in the finals but lost for a third time and finished the year 1-3.

Seth Weingarten (1), Ben Sommers (2) and Nimit Shah (4) also reached the semis as did the doubles teams of Michael Redisch-Robert Yost (2) and Aaron Scheinfeld-Jeremy Lewis (3).

Gaelic football tourney

Gaelic football, the national sport of Ireland, will be on display Sunday at Riley Middle School, located off Five Mile between Middlebelt and Meridian roads, in Livonia.

The seven-a-side single elimination tournament, free to the public, begins at noon. It features teams from Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto and two area clubs, Padraig Pearse of Livonia and the Wolfstones of Dearborn.

Padraig Pearse and the Wolfstones open Midwest Divisional play 1 p.m. Sunday, June 11 at Riley.

The Pearse Club holds practices from 6:30-8 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday at Holmes Middle School.

Those interested in playing Gaelic football should call Scott Heinzen at (313) 462-2423 (after 10 a.m.).

Ex-Hawks lift Portland

With five former Harrison High School athletes on its roster, Portland Building is 4-1 and in second place in the Livonia Men's Modified Fast-Fitch Soccer League.

Portland Building whipped Insurance Exchange 13-3 Monday as Mike Pesci collected five RBIs in his first game after finishing the baseball season with Henry Ford Community College.

Pesci hit a home run and a triple. Jason Lichtman, Dan Hight and Todd Kenyon (triples) had two hits each. Lichtman also had two RBIs and two runs scored. Kenyon three RBIs.

All are former Harrison athletes as is Rob MacDonald. The Portland roster also includes Pat Malone and Jim Brady of Farmington Hills.

Elite defeats Menace

Ann Arbor Elite, behind goals from John Truskowski and Andy Cosenza, improved to 2-2 in the U.S. Inter-Regional Soccer League with a 2-1 victory Saturday over the Des Moines (Iowa) Menace.

After giving up a penalty kick goal in the first half, Elite (5-2) rallied on Truskowski's rebound off the crossbar and Dominic Vella's pass to Cosenza with only one minute remaining.

Beginners youth golf

A beginners golf program for boys and girls 7-14 years old is being sponsored by Schoolcraft College. The six-week program will meet Sundays beginning June 4.

Cost is \$40. The program will include instruction in set-up, iron, woods, the short game, rules, and golf etiquette.

To register and/or obtain further information, call (810) 452-4413.

(Submit sports news to Dan O'Meara by fax (313-581-7770), phone (313-963-8141) or mail to 30261 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150.)

Mercy survives North rally, 3-2

BY DAN O'MEARA

STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy survived a late rally by host North Farmington to stay alive in the girls district soccer tournament Wednesday, 3-2.

After being held scoreless for 67 minutes, All Lord scored twice in the final 13 and just missed a third as the Raiders were unable to overcome a three-goal deficit.

The Marlins (8-5-3) will play the Seaholm-Groves winner for the district championship 4 p.m. Friday at North.

It was the second tournament game in two days for Mercy, which beat Bloomfield Hills Lahser in a 2-1 shootout Tuesday.

"That was just a great victory for us," coach Deepak Shrivaman said. "Everybody played with such passion. We were concerned they would be drained today, but they played with heart again."

"They realize we didn't meet one of our goals, to win the Catholic League. But we're in the district final and that's our goal now."

Shrivaman most likely won't be able to coach Friday, however, after

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receiving a red card Wednesday.

After Mercy defender Laurin Hendrickson, who shadowed Lord, received a yellow card and went to the bench, Shrivaman protested what he thought was rough play by the Raiders and was subsequently ejected.

"The referee said 'Not another word.' I said 'I'm going to say something if the health of my player depends on it,'" Shrivaman said.

He planned to appeal the red card, adding "I thought I deserved a warning. I think he overreacted."

It was a disappointing finish for the Raiders (9-6-1), who were all but done when Erin Solason gave Mercy a 3-0 lead with a breakaway goal in the 48th minute.

With less than 20 minutes left, Mercy assistant coach Safa Sitto began to substitute.

Lord scored her first goal against Julie Angell, the regular Mercy goalie who was ill but had replaced Lynn Digilommo, who had stoned the Raiders.

See SOCCER, 5C