

Falcons No. 1 at Haslett Invite

Farmington was due to win the Haslett Invitational, and the Falcons were up to the challenge Saturday.

After finishing second last year and third in 1993, Farmington won the girls race by outmaneuvering Brighton, 42-58.

It was the third invitational the Falcons have won this year, but it was also their toughest race, according to coach Liz Zyma.

"(The Farmington girls) could really feel the pressure," she said. "It was the first time they heard a coach say 'Get that blue' for the last mile."

"Usually, it's more mixed at an invitational, but this was more like a dual meet."

After the top four places (Liz Fernandez of Birmingham Marian was fourth), 10 of the next 11 runners were from either Farmington or Brighton.

Twenty-eight seconds was all that separated Farmington's top five.

Kate Adams finished fifth (20:10), Anne Grimaldi sixth (20:14), Almee Cameron eighth (20:21), Theresa Derwinski ninth (20:22) and Natalie Dawson 14th (20:38).

Brighton's top five placed seventh, 11th, 12th, 13th and 15th.

The Falcons had six runners receive medals, including Ellen Adams, who also ran a solid race and finished 19th while breaking 21 minutes.

X-COUNTRY

"I was real pleased with the whole team," Zyma said. "It's the best performance we've had. Some cut their times by 30 seconds, some by two minutes since we ran there last year."

Farmington's next challenge is the Oakland County meet — one of the major events the Falcons have pointing toward — Saturday at Marshbank Park.

"We're meeting all the expectations I thought we could do if we worked hard," Zyma said of her team.

"If we can keep our pack close, we can be competitive with anybody. When we run against the big teams, we want to get as close as we can and stay with them — and so far we have."

"We'll be able to run, and we're hoping to place."

Redford Catholic Central was third (108) and Farmington 14th (336) in the 10-team boys race at Haslett. Strickbridge was first (60) and Brighton second (76).

CC's Joe Leo was first (18:33), Anthony Wolfe 21st (17:14), Joe Hubert 25th (17:25), Chris Laney 30th (17:31) and Rick Kowal 17:34).

Ben Scott of Farmington was 45th (17:50), Matt Beuckeleers 51st (18:02), Ryan Shields 70th (18:25), Nick Surtic 77th (18:45) and Wes Barrett 93rd (19:23).

Marlins rout Pioneers

Farmington Hills Mercy remained unbeaten (4-0) in Catholic League dual meets Tuesday with a 16-5 victory over River View Gabriel Richard.

The Marlins took the top eight places at Casa Benton with Betay Gignac (20:42), Jackie Segue (21:29), Lisa Nobles (21:60), Melissa Tuzcek (22:06), Mandy Phelps (22:25), Erin Thomas (22:29), Danielle Wroblewski (22:33) and Christina Andriola (23:17).

"It was a tough day with bad conditions, but I thought we worked hard considering what it was like," Mercy coach Gary Servalais said. "It was wet and windy; there was a lot of standing water on the course."

The Marlins were second in Class A Division I Saturday at the Center Line Invitational.

Grosse Pointe South won with 72 points, Mercy had 168 and Grosse Pointe North 268.

The 26 teams from both divisions ran at the same time, and the top 50 individuals received medals.

All five who scored for Mercy got a medal. Segue was 18th (20:15), Nobles 34th (20:50), Gignac 35th (20:55), Tuzcek 39th (21:04) and Phelps 40th (21:07).

Mercy's Thomas won the junior varsity race with a 21:16 time.

Mercy overcomes taller Regina, 38-34

Farmington Hills Mercy scored a Catholic League upset Tuesday when it beat visiting Harper Woods Regina 38-34 in girls basketball.

The result gave Mercy and Regina 2-3 records in the Central Division. The Marlins are 3-6 overall, the Saddletites 5-4.

With the score tied 16-16 at halftime, Mercy outscored Regina 16-8 in the third quarter and held on as the Saddletites tried to rally in the finale.

"It was a low-scoring game, and that's what we wanted," Mercy coach Larry Baker said. "We played with a lot of intensity on defense, and we stopped them from lobbing the ball into their big kids."

"We kept their guards very well extended, so they had to make

BASKETBALL

long passes. They had more space than they were comfortable with in their offense, and we were able to step in and make some steals."

Freshman Jessie Brennan scored 17 points for Mercy, and junior Mary Jane Valade added 10.

Regina had only two more rebounds than Mercy despite having 6-foot-2 Renee LaBelle (10 points) and 6-foot Sarah Judd (four points) in its lineup.

"Confidence is a big factor for us right now," Baker said. "We started two juniors, two sophomores and a freshman, and they have to feel good about their effort."

The Marlins play host to Birmingham Marian tonight.

NORTH 87, WESTERN 41: North Farmington's Western Lakes Activities Association routed at 2-2 Monday by defeating Walled Lake Western.

Kelley Fournier sank three three-point field goals and led the Raiders with 14 points.

Michelle Sikar made two triples and had 10 points, and Melissa Gray and Kaitie Collins scored in nine apiece.

Carrie May had another all-around good game with seven points, eight rebounds and eight steals.

Jody Miller made 10 of 13 free throws and finished with 15 points to lead the Warriors.

North took a 17-5 lead after one quarter and maintained a safe margin through halftime (27-15) and the third period (42-23).

"We were rushing to begin with, but once we slowed down, we started executing better," North coach Linda Perkins said.

"We were able to get some playing time and exposure to the game, and I was really happy about that. I was pleased with the whole effort."

The Raiders are 6-5 overall.

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