

CROSS COUNTRY PREVIEWS

Raiders rate nod as city's best again

By DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
domeara@oecomm.com.net

North Farmington had the top boys cross country team in Farmington last year, and a group of veteran runners are likely to keep it there.

The Raiders, who had the best finish (sixth place) among city teams in the Western Lakes Activities Association meet, have six experienced athletes who could push North higher in the standings.

"We do have an experienced group that over the course of the year, hopefully, will bring along newer runners to help out," North coach Paul Welch said.

"We're looking for a very competitive year. Barring any

injuries, we should have a fairly successful season."

The Raiders are led by senior Charlie Stamboulain, who qualified for state and ran 16:33 in the final race of last season. He was 11th in the WLAA meet and had the best finish of any Farmington runner.

"He put in a lot of miles in the summer and is looking good in practice," Welch said.

North also returns seniors Mike Millat, Isaac Kaufman, Matt Wiegand and Jimmy Lala, and junior Ethan Goodman will be one of the team's top performers again. Wiegand and Goodman were in the WLAA's top 30. Millat and Kaufman are improved and expected to be big assets to the program, according

to Welch.

Wiegand was the No. 2 man last year but had a slow start, because work kept him from running as much as the others in the summer. But Welch is counting on him to play a key role again.

"I'm looking to (the seniors) for good team leadership, which they have provided throughout the summer," he said. "I'm hoping they'll be able to put everything together this fall."

Juniors Andy Smith and Alec Tamsin and sophomore Joe Karl also return. Junior Mike Bowman, sophomore James Choi and freshmen Eugene Furman, Dan Carlson, Ben Gannon and Jeff Mataya show promise.

"I've been coaching 16 years at North, and I don't think I've had the privilege of coaching a team that has shown as much hard work and dedication over the summer as this team has," Welch said.

"They're doing what it takes to become quality runners. Hopefully, it will pay off for them in the end."

Farmington Harrison

The Hawks were in a rebuilding phase last year and failed to win a dual meet, but coach John Reed believes his team is ready to take a step forward.

Harrison returns its No. 1 runner in senior Jason Scarbrough but remains a young team with mostly sophomores and freshmen filling the ranks.

"Jason has been running hard all summer and looks real good," Reed said, adding Scarbrough could be one of the top 15 in the conference. "If he runs well, I think he has a chance to make the state meet."

Senior captains Justin and Jason Shaffer are the only other upperclassmen on the team and will be counted on to provide leadership and points.

A large sophomore class consists of Jon Keller, Steve Sargol, Elliott Marshall, Craig Ardisana, Tim Darnell and Dan Lee. Freshmen Nick Ives, Eric Lockwood, Andrew Singer and Wayne Wright round out the team.

"We are young, but I think we're a lot better than we were last year," Reed said. "The freshman group last year has improved a ton. I think people are going to be surprised."

"They're better runners than they were last fall. We took our time with them; we didn't overload it. A lot of them are stepping up and doing real well now."

"I think this year we're going to start to win meets. How many? I don't know. We plan on being a much better team, so we're kind of excited."

"We want to be competitive this year, and next year we're expecting to be very good. It's a long process. You have to start all over sometimes, but we're definitely moving in the right direction."

Farmington High

The Falcons lost their top runner from a year ago when junior Pat Lockhart moved to Ann Arbor, but coach Chip Bridges remains positive about this year's team.

Senior co-captains Andrew Kenerson and Aaron Scheidies, junior Andrew Czaplinski, sophomore Tom Enson, senior Chris Nagnant and junior Brian Gaglio return with varsity experience. Another veteran runner, junior Shamik Trevedi, is out with a knee injury, and Bridges doesn't know when he'll be back.

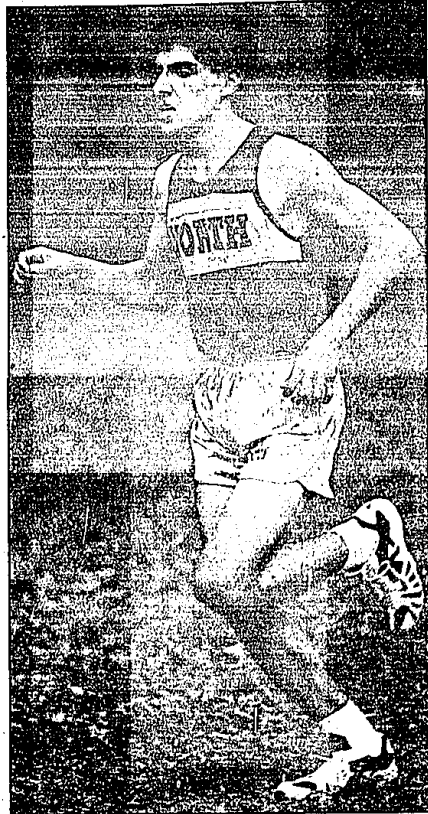
Farmington will get help from first-year sophomore Chris Tobe, who ran track and was up there with Czaplinski and Enson as leaders in preseason practices.

"We don't have any standouts, but top to bottom it's probably the hardest-working group I've had since my first year (1993)," Bridges said.

"We had a core group of guys who showed up on a regular basis for our summer workouts. We're a lot better prepared. We're able to handle workouts earlier in the year much better than we have in the past."

Bridges has no doubt the Falcons, who were 1-6 in dual meets and finished 10th in the WLAA, are a better team even without Lockhart.

"We're working hard at prac-



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEKOR

Top returning runner: Senior Charlie Stamboulain had the best finish by a Farmington runner in the WLAA.

tice and have to make the transition into racing well," he said. "If we can do that, I think we'll be more competitive."

"There are no great teams (in

the WLAA) but no terrible teams either. With the type of team we have, we have to have five guys run at their best. I'm real positive about our team."

CC standout sidelined indefinitely by injury

Detroit Catholic Central junior John DiGiovanni has a stress fracture in his right knee and cross country coach Tony Magni is grateful it's only that.

It's the same injury that bothered DiGiovanni enough to miss the track season last spring. And for a while it looked like it might be something worse, much worse.

The Shamrocks start the season Saturday at the Brother Rice Invitational.

"For a while they thought it might be a tumor," Magni said. "Everyone was concerned, very concerned. It was the first time we played as a team for a stress fracture and, thankfully, that's what it was. He sat out all of track season, rested, and all summer and had no problem. He ran a couple days at camp; felt a little twinge and that was it."

The Shamrocks finished third at last year's Class A state meet. Magni believes another top-five finish would

be possible with DiGiovanni. Without him Magni is hoping the Shamrocks can qualify for state and be in the top 10.

CC, which won the Catholic League and regional titles, graduated all-star Dan Jess, Jim Curran, Brian Kuczyński and Mark Repasky.

"Without DiGiovanni we're a decent team," Magni said. "With him we'll be much, much better. We've got some kids that have to step up; it's as simple as that."

The top CC returnee is junior Matt Daley, who was 43rd in the state meet last year.

Senior Jeff Haller is No. 2 in his class, scoring a perfect 1,800 on the SAT, and he's one of the state's top country runners.

"Jeff is a very, very hard worker," Magni said. "I made him captain and I haven't had one in years. I always have designated leaders but he just takes over and the kids respect him."

Cross country from page C1

Divine Child's first three kids are seniors. They're hungry; they've been second a long time."

Farmington High

The Hawks return their No. 1 runner from last season, sophomore Megan Annarino, and will

be helped by the addition of three first-year runners.

"Annarino is running really well," Farmington coach Ann Badnyee said. "We're looking for Megan to drop her time and possibly have a shot at state."

Running in the Nos. 2-4 posi-

tions based on preseason time trials are sophomores Kristin Balla and Shanna Barkume and junior Danielle Miller, respectively.

All three has backgrounds in other sports in which running is a requirement. Balla and Miller run track and Barkume plays soccer.

Senior captains Fallon James and Betsy Luckscheiter are battling with junior Julie Fowler for the fifth spot. All three are returning runners who will likely round out the varsity lineup.

The other team members are junior Heather Dorwinski, senior Sarah Miller, junior Catherine Brouillette and freshmen Mindy McPeak and Claire Czaplinski. Brouillette is another soccer player.

The Falcons, who were eighth in the conference, lost five seniors and their leadership core to graduation.

"But the girls who've come out have stepped right in there in terms of work ethic and are training hard," Badnyee said. "I'm optimistic and hopeful."

We're in one of the toughest conferences in the state. We'll be challenged every time we go out there, but that's OK because that will push the girls."

"Team-wise, we're working on bringing the core group closer to the top girls. We had a great camp, and we're hoping to carry that through as the weeks go on."

North Farmington

The Raiders are led by senior captains Heidi Frank and Holly Stockton, who were among the team's top runners last year.

Frank, who was 17th in the Western Lakes meet and made the All-Observer second team, and Stockton had good results in track last spring.

"Heidi was No. 1 consistently and is doing fantastic right now," North coach Bill Pinnell said. "I think she can easily be in the top five in the conference."

"She put in a lot of miles during the summer, and I think she's going to have a real good season if we can keep her healthy."

"Holly is hanging in there and staying close to Heidi. I think she's going to have a much better season, and I'm hoping she'll be in the top 15 in the conference."

The Raiders, who lost Karen Bockli and Kori Rothman to graduation, will rely on returning seniors Nina Bianchi and Cristina Bozintan, who was one of the No. 5 runner, to fill the void.

"My top four are definitely solid," Pinnell said.

Those four and sophomore Kristen Stamboulain, another returning runner, ran 250 miles apiece in the summer, according to Pinnell.

Stamboulain was hurt most of last year with stress fractures, but she came back and ran well at the end of the season.

Senior Amy Newman also returns and will be challenging for a varsity position, as will freshman Shara Chorink, who ran a lot in the summer, too.

The roster includes sophomores Kelly Kuo, who has experience running track, and Elyse Sklar and freshmen Sharon Wilner and Amy Miller.

The Raiders were 2-6 in dual meets and finished seventh in the WLAA.

"I'm very excited about this year," Pinnell said. "I think we'll be the most competitive we've been in the last few years."

"I don't think we'll be conference champs, but I think we can be up there. We're looking for a real good year. The heart of the team has a great attitude; they're positive and enthusiastic."

Farmington Harrison

The Hawks enter the season with second-year junior Lauren Liebowitz as their No. 1 runner.

"She started to come on in the end last year, and she's been tremendous this year," Harrison coach Mark Babcock said.

Senior Lynn Andrzejewski returns to lead the Hawks as team captain after having a good track season.

"It's time for her to take over that role now," Babcock said.

Sophomore Christine Motry is a first-year runner who can keep pace with Liebowitz and Andrzejewski.

"She shares time with the marching band, but we're glad she's with us because she's talented and she's going to help us," Babcock said.

Senior Megan Haas and sophomores Clara Fletcher, Julieta Larina and Ashley McElmurry are other first-year runners who will figure in the varsity lineup.

Fletcher runs middle distance in track, and Larina is a pole vaulter; McElmurry played basketball previously.

"I've been coaching cross country for 10 years, and this is the hardest-working team I've ever coached," Babcock said.

"I look at our front six, and we have a lot of youth and inexperience, but we also have more talent than we've had in a while."

"The only thing I'm going to guarantee is that we're going to be better than we have been. We're in a lot better shape; we'll try to stay healthy and see what happens."

The Hawks, who were winless in dual meets, start the season in a quad meet today.

ON STOP SHOPPING

VINYL SIDING

#1 WOLVERINE WHITE Double 4 or 5 \$38.95
#1 VITEC WHITE Double 4 Colors + \$2.00 \$38.50

ROOFING SHINGLES GAF \$25.25
25 yr. Manufacturer's warranty

GUTTER 1 1/2" Gutter with 5/8" Downspout \$7.35
22 colors available

COIL STOCK 24"x50" White Utility \$41.95
24"x50" Wide Selection

GARAGE DOORS \$397.50
Insulated Steel Roll-Up

TRAPP STORM DOORS & WINDOWS
1 1/2" Storm Door \$129.95
1 1/2" Storm Window \$129.95

COIL STOCK 24"x50" White Utility \$36.95

VINYL DOOR-HALL \$575.00
6" Vinyl Floor Quality

WINDOWS Replacement Vinyl Doors \$129.95
Replacement Storm Door

DOOR AWARINGS \$124.95
4 1/2" x 6 1/2" Vinyl Overlay

CUSTOM SHUTTERS \$124.95
Vinyl in 18 colors

Viking Building Materials, Inc.
30175 Ford Rd.
GARDEN CITY • 734-421-5743
OPEN DAILY 9-5 SAT 9-5 CLOSED SUNDAY

Girls Fast Pitch Softball Tryouts

Farmington Motor City Madras Girls FastPitch Softball team will be conducting tryouts for the 2000 season on Saturday September 11 and Sunday September 12 at Founder Park Field number one.

• Tryouts for 14 & under 9:00AM - 11:00AM
• Tryouts for 12 & under 1:00PM - 3:00PM
— Players need to attend both days —

Agos are determined as of January 1, 2000. Players are to arrive a half-hour early to sign in. All players need to bring bats, mitts, helmets and cleats.

For further information call Ed McNeil 471-4953

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID

Farmington Public Schools will accept sealed bids for cafeteria tables for O.E. Dunckel and East Middle Schools until 1:30 P.M., Thursday, September 23, 1999 at the Lewis Schulman Administration Center, 32500 Shawanaw, Farmington, Michigan 48336, addressed to Paul Hain at which time they will be publicly opened and read for presentation to the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting. The Board will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or to waive any informality therein; or for reasons of establishing uniformity, to award the contract to other than the low bidder.

Bid documents may be obtained from the Purchasing Department, 32500 Shawanaw, Farmington 48336, telephone (248) 469-3344.

Pub/Ed, September 9 and 12, 1999