

City meet

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meet Thursday, according to Babcock.

"We led the whole meet and got beat in the mile relay," he said.

Then, his team had a long day Saturday going to and from the Algonac Relays, and Babcock wondered if the Hawks would be sufficiently recovered in time to do well, if not win, Monday.

"I was a little worried; I thought the girls might be a little sluggish," he said. "But the kids really responded, and we had a lot of personal bests."

I guess that shows how much the city meet means to them. They gave it everything they had, and I'm so proud of them."

The Hawks didn't lose in the 1,600-meter relay this time, either. Anchor runner Ria Hill held off North to give Harrison a two-second advantage and a title-clinching victory. A win by the Raiders there would have made them the champions again.

Harrison won four of five relays, including the shuttle hurdles in which the Hawks defended their city title.

"(North) had some things that didn't go well," Babcock said. "Fortunately, we had a lot of things go well for us."

"We won a couple relays I didn't think we would (800 and 1,600). The rest I thought would be fairly close."

Harrison freshman Laura Glynn won the 400 dash in 1:02.7, one of the area's best times and clearly one of the best performances of the day.

"She hadn't been under 1:05, so that was a big jump," Babcock said.

The Raiders were weakened by an injury to Dayna Clemons, who suffered a pulled hamstring Saturday at the Livonia Stevenson Invitational.

Clemons was the defending champion in the 200 dash and was runner-up in the 100 hurdles last year.

North's Heidi Frank won the 1,600 and 3,200 races again, and teammate Lauren Turner repeated as city champ in the pole vault.

"The big surprise was all three discus throwers throwing over 100 feet," North coach Bill Pinnell said, adding the Raiders had three sophomores and a junior in the mile relay.

Kristin Ulewicz and Anne Lieberman ran 64-second splits;

Laura Hirsell ran her best quarter of the year, and Tina Frank was within a half second of her best time. We gave it everything we had.

"I thought it was a very exciting meet; the competition was great. We had good performances throughout, and I was very pleased with that."

Harrison boys coach John Reed was concerned about his team's physical and mental condition, too, after it made an all-out effort Saturday night to win the Observersland Relays.

The Hawks were runners-up, however, finishing just three points behind Plymouth Canton, 68-65.

Reed wasn't sure if his team could bounce back in time to win what was expected and proved to be a highly-competitive city meet.

"This was a big gut-check for us," Reed said. "We ran out of our brains on Saturday and were tired. We showed great mental and physical toughness."

"It was a tough day Saturday. We broke two (Observersland) records in the sprint relays, and we ran a dual with Western on Thursday. It was almost impossible, but it happened and it's great."

A great irony is the fact Harrison didn't win either sprint relay Monday, and that's an area considered to be a team strength.

Farmington repeated as city champ in the 800 and 400 relays. Harrison was second in the 800 and didn't finish in the 400.

"We won it without our sprint relays, and that will surprise a lot of people," Reed said. "You'd think that would win it for us."

"We tried to win Saturday and figured whatever happens will happen (Monday). We knew it would be tough; we'd have to gut it out."

"The kids are thrilled. They showed they can do just about anything."

Just as in the girls meet, the Harrison boys had to win the 1,600 relay to win the meet.

On the anchor leg, sophomore Agim Shabaj held off North's Anthony Beal to give Harrison the victory by a little less than a second.

Shabaj also set a school record by winning the 200 dash in 22.1, breaking the record held by senior Kevin Woods and former standout Keith Battle by one



STAFF PHOTO BY BOB BAZZES

10th of a second.

It was only the second time Shabaj had run the 400. The first was Saturday at the Observersland Relays.

Harrison senior Nick Hall repeated as city champion in the 110 and 300 hurdles. He also was third in the shot put and ran a leg of the 1,600 relay.

Derek Laskowski won the pole vault title again, and Jason Scarbrough improved his time by eight seconds in winning the 800 run.

Beal broke a North school record in the 400 dash, winning that race in 48.7 seconds. His previous best was 49.6. The record was 49 flat and had stood since 1966, not 1978 as previously reported.

Beal did that despite a sore heel that became swollen after the Observersland Relays and he had limped for two days.

"I told him 'Just make sure

you win.' It didn't have to be phenomenal," North coach Jeff Simpson said.

"We heard Farmington stuck a sprinter in there, (Beal) thought he would have to run harder to make sure he won, so he did. He took it out harder."

The Raiders also made a strong bid for the Observersland title, finishing fourth, but their strategy for the city meet changed after Simpson learned of Beal's injury.

"I told the team going in to make sure we beat Farmington in the dual meet to keep the undefeated season," Simpson said, adding the city title would have been a bonus.

North did win the dual, 73-64. The Raiders are 4-0 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes

Activities Association with one to go and 5-0 overall.

Despite his injury, Beal still made a good effort to catch Shabaj in the 1,600 relay and to win the city meet for North.

"The logic was he had to beat Farmington," Simpson said. "I think he went after the Harrison kid. (Shabaj) was tough; he probably had more than Anthony thought he did. (Shabaj) ran a great race. Harrison deserved to win."

"There's always a lot of what ifs when a meet is that close. We stepped up in some areas. In others we fell short of what we thought we could do."

North's Charlie Stamboulouian "was his steady self," according to Simpson, repeating as champion in the 1,600 and winning

the 3,200. He was the defending champ in the 800, too, but didn't run that race.

Blair Weiss ran the open quarter for the first time and finished second behind Beal. It was the first time he ran two quarters of the same day, also.

"The other big thing was the half mile," Simpson said. North's Brian Horr, Jimmy Lala and Eugene Furman finished behind Scarbrough.

"Keeping Charlie out of there, we knew we needed three places, and we got it from those guys. That was big."

Farmington has a pair of defending champions, too. Sophomore Kate Bouschet won the girls long jump and 100 dash, again, and Layne Bodily took the boys high jump title once more.

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