

# State title eludes Hawks, but individuals earn medals

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER  
domeare@homecomm.net

Overall, the state meet didn't go as well as the Hawks had hoped, but neither was it devoid of highlights for the Farmington Harrison team.

The Hawks, who were regional champions and entertained thoughts of winning the Division 2 state title in boys track and field, finished in a four-team tie for seventh place.

Harrison scored 20 points Saturday at Grandville High School. Romulus won the championship with 47, and Detroit Renaissance, a regional runner-up to Harrison, was second with 46.

"Our expectations were high, but maybe we learned a lot from not doing as well as we wanted," Hawks coach John Reed said.

"It's a whole different ballgame at the state meet. There are a lot of good teams, and everybody is hungry and motivated. Next year, when we go back, we'll have to try to do things differently and better."

Specifically, the Hawks, who went eight days without competing prior to the state meet, need to be sharper mentally for the season-end, according to Reed.

"We have to look at ways to keep the kids focused that last week," he said. "We have to figure out 'How do we keep them mentally sharp going into the state meet?'"

## TRACK

Senior Derek Laskowski had the best individual performance by a Harrison athlete, finishing third in the pole vault at a height of 14 feet, 1 inch.

"He was third in the state, but he would've won the Division 1 meet," Reed said. "It looks like the top vaulters in the state were in the Division 2 meet."

"He had a great day, and he was real happy."

Senior Nick Hall was a regional champion and considered a contender in both hurdle events, but he was eighth in the 110s and didn't place in the 300s.

Hall was winning the 110-meter race, however, when he caught a foot on the second-to-last hurdle and fell.

He got up and finished, but that misfortune probably affected his performance in the 300 contest, too, according to Reed.

"It was heartbreaking for him, because he's been such a good kid for us all these years," Reed said.

"After the fall he was shaken up, and it was kind of a long day for him. But he's had a lot of great performances, and this was just one day."

Harrison's sprint relay team of Agim Shabaj, Chris Roberson, Marcus Woods and Kevin Woods was third in the 800 (1:30.1) and fourth in the 400 (1:43.6).

They didn't run as fast as they can, but the state meet was a new experience for Roberson and Marcus Woods, Reed said.

"When you go to state, all the teams are good, and it's a learning experience," he said. "They're not happy with their performances, but that will make them hungry for next year."

"They wanted to do better, but they were still all-state."

The entire unit will return next year with the exception of Kevin Woods, who also took seventh place in the 200 dash (23.4).

"He medaled in three events, which is pretty impressive," Reed said. "He's probably the only kid in the area who can say that."

Shabaj also qualified in the 200 but didn't make the finals when he aggravated a leg wound in the prelims.

"He was coming down the straightaway and felt the stitches break open," Reed said. "He slowed down a bit and, when he did, he got nipped."

"He had to get re-stitched but came back and ran a leg on both (sprint) relays and an anchor leg in the mile relay."

The Hawks didn't score in the 1,600 relay but, all things considered, it had been a long day by then.

The Division 2 meet lasted 3 1/2 hours longer than the Division 1 meet, according to Reed, and didn't end until 7:30 p.m.

"It was a long, slow meet and

that was hard, too, because the kids are used to running events close together and being focused. I don't think the long meet helped us."

With athletes such as Marcus Woods, Shabaj and Roberson returning, Reed believes the Hawks will field a quality team again next year.

"We're going to lose some real good seniors," he said, "but the kids are very excited about track at Harrison. It seems to be building and growing, and I think we're going to keep getting better."

**RAIDER PLACES IN 400-METER DASH:** North Farmington senior Anthony Beal finished sixth in the 400-meter dash at the Division 1 final, but his goal was to win the race.

If otherwise, Plymouth Canton rival Jerry Gaines was two places ahead of Beal but less than half a second faster, 49.52 to 48.77.

"I'm sure he was a little disappointed," North coach Jeff Simpson said. "I think he felt he should have finished a little higher. It was one of those days when he didn't have a great race."

"State in the state is still a tremendous accomplishment for someone who's only been running track two years."

Senior Charlie Stamboulou was 12th in the 1,600 run and ran a good race as he tried unsuccessfully for a school record, according to Simpson.

"He was on pace for three laps," he said. "He knew he needed a 61-second last lap and pushed it early."

"He hit the last 200 and still finished strong but not as strong as he normally

does, because he kicked so early."

The Raiders didn't fare well in the 3,200 relay, because Simpson withheld Stamboulou for the 1,600 and senior Brian Herr, who suffered a broken foot earlier in the week, was unable to run. Herr didn't run the 800, either.

Senior Jim Gabriel was 10th in the pole vault. His best effort was 12-6, the same as the sixth-place finisher, but Gabriel had more misses.

**FALCONS SCORE IN RELAY:** Farmington High's 800 relay of seniors Mark Oatesch, Todd Anthony and Dustin Greas and junior Jawlin Spinks finished seventh in the Division 1 meet with a time of 1:29.97.

The Falcons edged the Western Lakes Activities Association champion from Walpole Lake Western by one 100th of a second.

Coach Chip Bridges wonders if the Falcons, despite their success in that event, could have trimmed a little more time off their performance.

"Obviously, being top-seven is cool," Bridges said, adding the team had trouble with a handoff which slowed it down a bit Saturday.

"I felt all year we never put that relay together like we could have. They're all talented runners, and I wish we could've had that one perfect race."

"As a coach, I think we had a little more left, because I think we're a 1:29-flat-type team."

But I can't say enough about these kids and how hard they worked. They sacrificed individual events, because they wanted that relay to be great."

The same four boys ran 43.6 in the 400 relay but didn't score, which could be attributed to interference from a Portage Northern runner.

"We were running fine and their No. 3 runner cut into our lane, causing our

runner to slow down and go around him," Bridges said. "Todd Anthony said 'Coach, I looked up and there he was.' You don't expect that in the 400."

"Portage Northern was DQed, but that didn't help our time. It could have made a difference between placing and not placing. It's hard to say, but I think it did."

Junior Jeremy Mazes went 6-1 in the high jump, and senior Ben Lukas ran 15.2 in the prelims of the 110 hurdles.

"Those kids who went to the state meet are super hard workers," Bridges said. "I can't say enough good things about them."

"I don't think I've enjoyed a group of kids more than this one. I'll be sad to see them go in more ways than just running."

**MARLINS PLACE AT STATE:** Farmington Hills Mercy senior Kristy Ramsey and junior Judy Telford made their first trips to the state meet and scored in field events.

Ramsey ended her first year in a spring sport by finishing seventh in the high jump (5-3), and Telford placed fifth in the discus (122.5).

"For the first time at state, they did very well," Mercy coach Gary Servais said. "Kristy had a good jump at 5-3. If she could have just made it to 5-5, she would have been third."

"To go up there and be part of it and still place is a good accomplishment."

"Judy was ranked third but that's deceptive, because a lot of regions were Friday night and didn't have as good weather. I know (Plymouth Salem's Tiffany Grubbs) is better than she was entered."

"It was (Telford's) first time to the state meet; she made the finals and placed. Hopefully, that will get her fired up to move up higher next year."

## All-wheel drive. All-around luxury



2000  
mercury  
mountaineer

Mercury Mountaineer V-8 AWD with Convenience Group and Luxury Group features include: 5.0L OHV V-8 engine • Full-time All-Wheel Drive • Power windows and door locks • Dual front airbags\*\* • 4-wheel disc anti-lock brakes • Fingertip speed control with tap-up/tap-down feature • SecurLock™ passive anti-theft system • Remote Keyless Entry • Electronic Automatic Temperature Control

**\$289**  
per mo./24-month lease

cash due at signing  
after \$1,750 cash back  
**\$3,139\***

for returning lessees\*\*  
includes refundable security deposit  
excludes tax, title and license fees

Mercury



Live life in your own lane

www.mercuryvehicles.com

Visit Your  
Metro Detroit  
Mercury Dealer

ANN ARBOR  
Apollo  
2100 W. Stadium Blvd.  
(734) 669-6100  
apolloinc.com

CLINTON TOWNSHIP  
Stu Evans Lake Jade  
17500 Hall Rd.  
at I-75  
(810) 840-2000  
stuevans.com

DEARBORN  
Krug  
21531 Michigan Ave.  
between Ford & Spring  
(313) 274-8800  
krug.com

DETROIT  
Bob Maxay  
16901 Mack Ave.  
at I-75  
(313) 885-4000  
bobmaxay.com

DETROIT  
Park Motor  
18100 Woodward Ave.  
at I-75  
(313) 859-5000  
parkmotor.com

FARMINGTON  
Jack Demmer  
31525 Grand River Ave.  
at I-75  
(248) 474-3170  
demmer.com

GARDEN CITY  
Stu Evans Garden City  
37000 Ford Rd.  
at I-75  
(734) 425-3000  
stuevans.com

NOVI  
Varsity  
49251 Grand River  
at I-75  
(248) 850-NOVI (6684)  
varsity.com

PLYMOUTH  
Hines Park  
40601 Ann Arbor Rd.  
at I-75  
(800) 550-MERC  
hinespark.com

ROCHESTER HILLS  
Crissman  
1185 South Rochester Rd.  
between I-75 & I-496  
(248) 652-4200  
crissman.com

ROSEVILLE  
Arnold  
29000 Grand  
at I-75  
(810) 445-6000  
arnold.com

SOUTHFIELD  
Star  
24350 West 12 Mile Rd.  
at I-75  
(248) 354-4900  
star.com

SOUTHGATE  
Stu Evans Southgate  
16800 Fort Street  
at I-75  
(734) 285-5800  
stuevans.com

STERLING HEIGHTS  
Crest  
36200 Van Dyke  
at I-75  
(810) 939-6000  
crest.com

TROY  
Bob Dorst  
1950 West Maple  
at I-75  
(248) 643-6800  
dorst.com

WATERFORD  
Mel Farr  
4178 Highland Rd. (M-59)  
at I-75  
(248) 683-9500  
farr.com

YPSILANTI  
Seal  
950 East Michigan  
at I-75  
(734) 482-7133  
seal.com

\*NOT ALL LESSEES WILL QUALIFY FOR THE LOWEST LEASE PAYMENT. SEE DEALER FOR QUALIFICATION DETAILS. PAYMENT ASSUMES DEALER CONTRIBUTION. Some payments higher, some lower. Residency restrictions apply. For special lease terms or cash back take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 7/5/2000. \*\*Customers eligible for the \$750 lease renewal incentive must terminate their new or used Lincoln or Mercury vehicle lease by 7/5/2000. \*\*\*Always wear your safety belt and secure children in the rear seat.