

FARMINGTON
FARMINGTON HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Closer than ever

Chiefs narrowly repeat at Observerland relays

BY BRAD EMONS
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Sixty points was the magic number as Plymouth Canton captured its third consecutive title in one of the most closely contested meets in the 32-year history of the Observerland Boys Track & Field Relays.

BOYS TRACK

Host Livonia Churchill was runner-up with 59 and Farmington Hills Harrison was third with 54.

Only 18 points separated the top seven teams which also included North Farmington, 49; Redford Catholic Central and Livonia Stevenson, 45 each; and Plymouth Salem, 42. Nineteen schools participated in the meet.

Canton won despite being shut out in seven of the 16 events, including the final two events, the 400- and 1,600-meter relays.

"We were scrambling and scraping for every point," said Canton's Bob Richardson, the only coach other than Churchill's Fred Price to three-peat at Observerland. "Everything seemed to work our way. And our guys are proud it went our way, especially our senior class which has won it three out of four times now."

If there was a turning point for the Chiefs it came in the individual 110-meter hurdles where senior Dane Kobus entered as the fourth seed out of the preliminary round. But Hillsdale College-bound griddler came away with a pivotal 10 points with a first-place time of 15.2.

"He's a seasoned veteran, a guy who has been in a lot of big football games," said Richardson of the All-Area running back. "When the game is on the line, you want him in there."

Canton captured three events, while adding second in the shuttle hurdle relay and a third in the distance medley.

Kobus, Dan Driscoll and Ken Page teamed up to win the long jump relay, combining for 58 feet, 7.75 inches. The trio of Page Mike Lanius and Brad

Please see RELAYS, D2



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HARLEY

Runaway: Farmington Harrison's Agim Shabaj runs the last leg of the 800 meter relay, handed off by Marcus Woods to set a meet record.

Mercy 1st, Raiders 3rd at tourney

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After squeaking past North Farmington in the semifinals of the Saturday Northstar Tourney on Sunday, the softball tourney finals against Richmond were bound to be a piece of cake for Farmington Hills Mercy.

And the cake was served up for the Marlins with ice cream and a little dollop of whipped cream on the side, thank you, as top ranked Mercy used a five-run sixth inning to wind up with a 9-4 win and the championship of the

SOFTBALL

48-team tourney.

Anna Schneider led the way in the championship game for the Marlins (23-2) by going 3-for-4 with a double and three RBI, while Lindsey Fedjuk was 2-for-4, Sarah Roman had a triple and Karen Agemy kicked in with a single.

Megan Fedjuk (13-2) earned the win against the Blue Devils by scattering eight hits, striking out eight and not

giving up a walk.

But the game was a turnaround from the nailbiter against the Raiders in the semifinals, decided in the Marlins' final at bat.

"I thought we played Mercy toe-to-toe and they're the No. 1 team in the state," said North coach Dave Brubaker. "They won the game, but we saw we can play with the highly ranked teams. We play them on Saturday (in North Farmington's tourney) and we're looking forward to the rematch."

With two outs in the top of the seventh, and the score tied at 1-1, Molly

O'Malley reached on an infield single. She stole her way to third base, then scored when Tammy Karagiosian dropped down a suicide squeeze.

The Marlins got their first run in the third inning when Karagiosian walked; stole second and scored on a Holly Van Cleave double. North (14-3) picked up its lone run when Beth Danielewicz singled, courtesy runner Bryn Allen was sacrificed to second, then took third on a comebacker by Emily Joffe and wound up scoring when the ball was thrown away.

Please see SOFTBALL, D8

No prom, no problem: Marlins clinch A-B crown



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DEARER

Putting around: Kim Warzyniec lines up a putt during Tuesday's dual meet with Divine Child at Glen Oaks. She was the medalist with a 37.

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Mercy golf coach Vicki Kowalski had a simple explanation for her team's sterling 158-195 win over Dearborn Divine Child on Tuesday - three days after they struggled at the Traverse City Invitational.

GOLF

"No prom," said Kowalski. "Three of our girls missed part of the tourney because of prom. No one missed Tuesday because of prom."

Tuesday's win over the Falcons clinched the regular season title in the Catholic League's A-B Division for the Marlins with a 9-0 record and one meet to play.

Kim Warzyniec led the way at Glen Oaks with a 37, while Monica Pilzner shot 38, Jackie Shinney had a 40 and Caitlin Kelly carded a 45. Christine Zakar and Amanda Gallery led Divine Child with 45s.

The tourney in Traverse City wasn't as simple. Shinney, Pilzner and Warzyniec missed the opening rounds on Friday because of Thursday's prom. As a result, the Marlins ended the first day in 14th place of 20 teams with 397.

"I look at it this way," said Kowalski. "Yes, we're No. 1 in the state. But some of our girls got a chance to expe-

Please see GOLF, D3

OCC second in state

Two runs in the top of the seventh proved to be enough for Lake Michigan College on Saturday as LCC stopped Oakland Community College, 3-2, in the semifinals of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association softball tournament.

The Lady Raiders did manage to comeback with a run in the bottom of the seventh inning but it wasn't enough. Toni Sale led the hitting attack by going 3-for-4 with a run scored, while Leanna Peters was 2-for-3 with an RBI, and Emily Bell was 2-for-3. Kasey DeSutter added an RBI double for the Lady Raiders.

Kelly Nilson (18-6) suffered the loss for OCC, giving up three hits in seven innings, while striking out 10 and walking just two. OCC ended the season at 31-11.

Gym Dogs compete

The Gym Dogs of Sports Club of West Bloomfield had several members fare well at the annual USA Gymnastics Level 5 & 8 State Gold Meet Championships last month.

In the level 5 group, Kaitlyn Krause was ninth in the 8-year-old group on the uneven bars, Rachel Keschling, 10, was eighth on the beam in her age group, Alexandra Bourque and Samantha Hicks, both 11, were fifth and 12th, respectively, in the All-Around. Bourque was second on the floor exercise (9.20) and fourth on the uneven bars (9.375), while Hicks was seventh on the beam (9.075). Molly Varon, 12, was 10th on the vault in her age group, while Jenna Israelson, 13, was second on the uneven bars (9.20).

In level 8, Ashley Hagaman was first on the vault (9.4) and third on floor exercise (9.1). Daniello Zafz was fourth on the vault (9.325) and on the bars (9.35), as well as placing seventh in the All-Around (36.725). Lindsey Chiro was fourth All-Around (37.125) by placing second on the beam (9.55) and fourth on the vault (9.15). Lauren Tucker was seventh All-Around (37.05) and was third on the floor (9.35).

Hagaman, Zafz, Chiro and Tucker all qualified for regional competition and will compete for Michigan this weekend in Broadview Heights, Ohio.

Blues win tourney

South Farmington Blues' 13-under baseball team went 5-1 on the weekend and won the Pre-Season Round-Up tourney at Dearborn's Rotunda Field.

The Blues outscored their opponents, 50-16, in the six games and successfully defended the title they won as 12-year-olds.

The Blues went 3-1 in preliminary play with a 5-2 win over the Windsor Titans, 12-3 over the Brighton Bulldogs and 9-0 over the Michigan Tomahawks, before losing, 3-2, to the Munson (O.) Bulldogs.

The team took a 14-3 win over the Oakland County A's, while earning an 8-4 win over the Michigan Bulls in the championship game.

Team members include Jeff Gorecki, Stephen Dety, Andy Harris, Brooks Tuyn, Brendan Clarke, Chase Dehne, Jonathan Castine, Akenaton Thomas, Tom Spielch, Matt Paul and Josh Rebandt. Rick Tuyn is the head coach, while Steve Gorecki and John Castine are the assistants. Larry Miller is the general manager.

CC wins tennis tourney

Redford Catholic Central won six of eight flights Saturday to seize the Grand Blanc Invitational boys tennis tournament.

The state-ranked Shamrocks scored a team-high 22 points followed by West Bloomfield and Birmingham Groves with 18 and 14, respectively.

West Bloomfield's Zach Abranson took the No. 1 singles flight, but CC garnered the next three flights led by Billy Walsh (No. 2), Jason Boydoun (No. 3) and Britton Steele (No. 4).

CC's No. 1 doubles team of Mark Fieszar and Paul Switaj emerged victorious as did the No. 2 team of Kevin Bender and Steve Doot.

The duo of Kevin Gardner and Ryan Snyder also won at No. 3, while West Bloomfield captured the No. 4 doubles flight.

(Items for the Sports Scene can be submitted by mail to sports editor Dan O'Meara by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at domeara@oe.homecomm.net.)