

Raiders hope to remain successful in boys track & field

BY DAN O'MARA
STAFF WRITER

The North Farmington Raiders would like to continue the success they had in boys track and field as a member of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

But they will have to contend with stiff competition as a newcomer to the Oakland Activities Association this year.

North, which won the WLA Lakes Division championship with a 5-0 record for the second time in three years, will compete against Mott, Lahser, Groves, Seaholm, Athens, Southfield and Avondale in the OAA's Division II.

"The interesting thing about the OAA is every meet is going to be competitive," North coach Jeff Simpson said. "That's what I've found to be the case in just about every other sport this year."

"You're put in a division that's pretty comparable for the most part. There's the possibility to win and the possibility to lose."

"Our focus is always to win the division but, with as many graduation losses as we had, a .500 record would be a good accomplishment for us."

The throwing and distance

events shape up as the best ones for the Raiders, who were 5-1 overall in dual meets last year.

Seniors Will Hathaway and Chris Cyrus return to throw the shot put and discus. Junior Kyle Goldman will concentrate on the shot, junior Safet Cumulaj and senior Steve Kahn the discus.

"They may not be big throwers, but they're consistent throwers," Simpson said. Senior Eugene Furman was a state qualifier in the 800; Junior Samit Patrawala and sophomore Selwan Barbat provide depth in that event.

Furman and Patrawala also can run the 1,600. North has experienced distance runners in seniors Jeff Mataya, Ben Gannon and Dave Mayselless, and sophomores Steve Gannon and James Liadis will help.

Senior Drew Roberts went to state in the high jump and is the team's top long jumper, too. Senior sprinters Marcus Thornton and Demetrius Milhouse will try the long jump, and sophomore Joe Coleman shows promise, according to Simpson.

The high jump should be a good event with senior Ashwin Raghu and sophomore Matt

"Overall, I think we'll be fine in the field events. It should be a decent scoring area for us."

Jeff Simpson
coach, North Farmington track team

Leach supporting Roberts.

Though the OAA doesn't include the pole vault as an event, North has three vaulters in seniors Doug Anderson and Morad Leal and Coleman.

"Overall, I think we'll be fine in the field events," Simpson said. "It should be a decent scoring area for us. The kids usually put in the time in those events."

North lost four good hurdlers in Mike Leach, Andy Zak, Brian Sinar and Brian Johns—a foursome that has the school's shuttle hurdle relay record.

Anderson, Leach, junior Matt McManus, Raghu and Roberts will attempt to pick up the slack.

"The hurdles are an area we need to focus some of our attention," Simpson said. "After four years of having good hurdlers, we take it for granted, so it's an area we need to improve as the year goes on."

In addition to Milhouse and Thornton, the sprint group includes junior Ken Uy and sophomores Jason Zeldes and Anthony Gatling. Senior Yangzhi Zhao will help in relays.

Senior Garrett will focus on the 400 dash along with juniors David and Carl Nance. Furman might run the quarter, too.

Farmington Falcons

Coach Chip Bridges is confident the Falcons will be improved and have the potential to do well in Division III of the Oakland Activities Association.

Farmington, which won one dual meet last year, sent a contingent of athletes to the Huron Relays in Ypsilanti Saturday and will compete next in the Andover Relays April 5.

"We are a much improved team from top to bottom," Bridges said. "As coaches we're very excited about getting into some meets and seeing how good we are and what we need to work on."

"We have events we need improvement, but we have a much bigger group than we've had as far as numbers. We have a lot of new talent."

"Now we have to get everybody in shape and in the right events. If we can do that, I think we'll have a chance to compete in our division."

An area of strength for the Falcons will be the sprints. Junior Joe Green, who was sixth in the 100 dash in the WLA, and seniors Eric Gaughan and Danny Preston are the veterans in the group.

"Eric does a great job on our relays," Bridges said. "He's very good out of the blocks and in his technique."

"Joe Green really finished strong. He improved leaps and bounds to the end of the year."

Freshman Phillip Champion, the Oakland County middle school champion in the 100 and 200, could have an immediate impact.

"He could be the best freshman sprinter Farmington has ever had," Bridges said. "He can get better technique-wise, but you can't deny he's going to be a fantastic runner as long as he keeps practicing and doing the things he's been doing."

Junior Chris Clark is the leading returnee in the 400 and will run the 800, too.

Farmington will depend on senior Andrew Amis, junior

Dan Clay, sophomore Patrick Whinnery and senior Drew Martin in the distance events. Junior Sherman Taylor and senior Kyle Washer are the team's leading throwers in the shot put and discus, and Bridges is optimistic about several newcomers.

Sophomore Matt O'Brien is the lone holdover in the high jump and also will help in the sprints. Gaughan, Green and junior John Kopicko are the top returning long jumpers.

"We have a bunch of kids working on (the long jump)," Bridges said. "It should turn into an event of strength for us. We have the kids with the right skills for the event."

Sophomores Kyle Mason and Chris Tague cleared 10 feet in the pole vault and finished one-two in the county freshman meet.

Sophomore Eric Dawulski also had a good rookie year and had the team's fastest times in the hurdles. Senior Jeff Durow is another returning hurdler.

"(Dawulski) worked a lot over the summer," Bridges said. "We gave him a hurdle to take home, and it's very evident it didn't just sit in his backyard."

dan@oe-homecomm.net | (734) 953-2742

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL

Friday, April 4
Seaholm at Harrison, 4 p.m.
Farmington at Rochester, 4:30 p.m.
H. Farmington at M. Bloomfield, 4 p.m.
Redford CC at A.A. Pioneer, 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 5
Harrison at Farmington, 11 a.m.

GIRLS SOFTBALL

Friday, April 4
Lake Orion at M. Farmington, 4:30 p.m.
R.D. Dondero at Harrison, 4:30 p.m.
Farmington at Avondale, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 5
F.H. Mercy at Richmond, 10 a.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Thursday, April 3
R.D. Dondero at Farmington, 7 p.m.
Stoney Creek at H. Farmington, 7 p.m.
W. Bloomfield at Harrison, 7 p.m.
F.H. Mercy at Bishop Foley, 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 5
Farmington at Harrison, 12:30 p.m.
H. Farm. at W. Bloomfield, 12:30 p.m.
Trenton at F.H. Mercy, 1 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS

Friday, April 4
Troy at H. Farmington, 4 p.m.
Seaholm at Farmington, 4 p.m.
R.D. Kimball at Harrison, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 5

Farmington at Monroe, TBA.

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

Saturday, April 5
Farmington, North, Harrison
at B.H. Andover Relays, 10 a.m.

BOYS TRACK & FIELD

Saturday, April 5
Farmington, North, Harrison
at B.H. Andover Relays, 10 a.m.
Redford CC at A.A. Pioneer, TBA.

BOYS LACROSSE

Thursday, April 3
Redford CC at Cranbrook, 5 p.m.
Saturday, April 5
Redford CC at Wooster (Ohio), 4 p.m.
Sunday, April 6
CC at Dublin Scioto (Ohio), 1 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF

Friday, April 4
Farmington vs. Milford,
4 p.m. at Myrtle Creek.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

(all doubleheaders)
Saturday, April 5
Madonna at Tri-State (Ind.), 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 6
Madonna at Siena Heights, 1 p.m.

DO YOU SMOKE? OR HAVE YOU QUIT?



Either way, you may be able to be a part of an important lung screening study for healthy men and women between the ages of 55 and 74.



The University of Michigan Health System is looking for volunteers for the National Lung Screening Trial (NLST). Smoking puts men and women at risk for lung cancer. NLST is comparing spiral CT scans to chest X-rays to find out if one is more effective than the other at lowering lung cancer deaths.

For more information, please call UMHS Cancer Center Answerline at 1-800-865-1125 M-F, 9-4:30; messages accepted after hours or the Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237).

National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services

0608087207

THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

You Could Be One Of Two Winners In Our First Annual "MAKE OVER MY MAN" CONTEST

In 100 words or less, tell us why your man deserves a make-over. If you are one of two winners, your man will receive:

- Outfit from Parisian for each winner.
- \$100 gift certificate from Murray's Jewelry Store inside Discount Auto Store.
- \$100 gift certificate from Boyne Country Sports.
- Haircut and manicure from Salon Bellissima.
- Gift certificate from Busch's Market and a consultation with their meal expert on preparing a romantic dinner.
- Four tickets to the May 15 Detroit Tiger-Oakland A's game, along with autographed memorabilia, baseball and an appearance on the field before the game!

RULES:

- Entries must be received by April 25, 2003
- Entrants must be at least 18 years old
- Entries must be 100 words or less and include a *non-returnable* photograph
- Entries must include name, age, address, phone, e-mail
- Employees of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and sponsors listed below are ineligible

Send your entry to:
"MAKE OVER MY MAN CONTEST", Cathy Young, Promotion Manager, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers,
36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 • Email: cyoung@oe.homecomm.net • FAX: 734-953-2232

SPONSORS—

murray's
Jewelry
TRIAL ONLY

PARISIAN
YOUR FINEST CLOTHING SPECIAL

BOYNE COUNTRY SPORTS
Outdoor Apparel

Busch's MARKETPLACE

The Livonia Stevenson
Booster Club Presents Their...

Spring Spectacular Craft Show

Saturday, April 5th • 10am-4:30pm
Stevenson High School
33500 W. Six Mile Road • Livonia
(between Farmington & Newburgh Roads)
Approximately 100 Crafters!
Admission \$2.00
Lunch Available • Strollers Welcome

You'll be leaping
and grinning too...

...when you sell, buy,
hire or find whatever
you need in our huge
classified marketplace.
Call us, fax us, or check us
out online!



THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS
Classified Ads
We work for YOU!
1-800-870-SELL
Fax 734-953-2232
oehomecomm.net