Howe golfs 2-C
Little League results 3,5,6-C
American legion prep 6-C

Beth Rebold · Marcy Nesbitt · Sharon Baker · Monique Ozimkowski · Linda Wright · Sue Eveland · Carol Jeffries · Leeta Grayson · Ruth Grabowski

First girls' track team

Wilson tops 3 events; deleted from 2 mile

By TOM BAER

Bloomfield Hills Lahser's Kathy Wilson may be one of the nation's most talented high school distance runners, but the outstanding senior presented quite a problem for the eight area coaches, who were charged recently with the responsibility of picking the 1977 Observer & Eccentric All-Area Girls' Track Team.

Wilson, who is headed for the University of Colorado on a track scholarship, could have dominate the annual dream team by taking first-team honors in four of the 14 events. "That would have happened had the coaches based their selections on the fastest times alone.

As it turned out, Wilson was picked for the first team in three events—the mile run, the 880-yard run and as anchor on Lahser's mile relay. The "problem" involved her efforts—or rather effort—in the two-mile run this season.

Wilson ran the two mile only once this year in a dual meet against Bloomfield Hills Andover. In that race, she logged a 10:49.0, the second-best time in the nation. So her selection as the O&E's best girl two miler seemed a foregone conclusion.

But having one girl top four events boggled the minds of most of the coaches, and set off a lengthy discussion about "limitations of competition" and "getting as many kids as possible on the team."

Lahser coach John Hansen finally settled the matter by removing Wilson from consideration in the two mile. "I pulled her out because of reasons of limits of competition," said Hansen after the meeting. "Kathy gets a lot of notoriety, and I'm sure people know about her great time in the two mile."

WILSON'S STATE meet record of 4:59.8 earned her first team in the mile run. Birmingham Groves senior Marcy Nesbitt was second at 5:25.7, and Farmington Our Lady of Mercy sophomore Michele Collins was third at 5:25.1.

In the 880 run, Wilson's 2:16.7, recorded in a dual meet against Walled Lake Western, was best. The coaches picked Mercy junior Lynn Yadach for second team at 2:24.8. West Bloomfield's Linda Greene, a senior, was third at 2:27.3.

Wilson ran a :60.0 anchor leg of Lahser's mile relay, which went 4:08.3 at the state meet. The rest of the team includes Sue Eveland, Leeta Grayson and Sue Staffacker. Southfield-Lathrup was second at 4:09.7, and Farmington Harrison third at 4:10.1.

With Wilson out of consideration in the two mile, first-team honors went to Groves' Nesbitt, who has run an 11:25.7. The Birmingham speedster has Metro Suburban Association and County Meet titles to her credit in that event. Mercy freshman Sue Heinlen was picked for second, and Lathrup junior Shari Russell was tapped for third.

Lahser further dominated the first-team selections when senior Judy Gracey topped two individual events—the long jump and the 100-yard dash. In the long jump, Gracey's best was 17-10¾. She finished first in the County Meet, the MSA league meet and the regional. Katie Hershiser, a Groves sophomore, was second at 16-4, and Liz Kretchmer, a Lahser sophomore, was third at 16-4.

Gracey's best effort in the 100 dash was :11.4. She won the MSA, and finished third at the County Meet. Andover's Chris Kirkpatrick was second at :11.2, and Mercy senior Leslie Sims was third at :11.6.

AVONDALE SOPHOMORE Laura Yagiela earned first-team honors in the shot put with a 34-½, recorded in a dual meet against Romeo. West Bloomfield sophomore Chris Nance was second at 33-1, and Rochester High senior Ingveld Berge was third at 35-6.

In the discus, Groves senior Maureen Clements was first with a 103-2½ thrown in a dual meet against Lahser. Avondale's Yagiela was second at 101-11, and teammate Theresa Manni, a junior, was third at 102-1.

Linda Wright, a West Bloomfield senior, dominated the high jump competition at 5-5, which was good for second place at the County Meet. Lahser senior Sue Fredley finished second, and Avondale senior Gail Thorell took third.

West Bloomfield's 880-yard relay (Sharon Baker, Monique Ozimkowski, Pam Melzer and Dayna Harper) was best at 1:46.7. Groves (1:47.1) and Andover (1:48.4) were second and third respectively.

The 110-yard hurdles went to Groves' Mary Beth Dudash, the MSA hurdles champ who has run a :14.9. Lathrup sophomore Karen Winston was second, and Troy High's Mary Woehrle landed third.

The 440-yard dash selections were easy to pick. Harrison junior Ruth Grabowski went :59.0 in the regional to take first-team honors. Lathrup's Ronda Finkelstein was second at :59.9, and Lahser's Eveland was third at 1:01.2.

Lahser's 440-yard relay (Carol Jeffries, Beth Rebold, Cindy Smith and Gracey) was No. 1 with a :51.0, good for 11th place at the state finals. West Bloomfield took second at :51.2, and Mercy took third at :52.8.

Andover's Kirkpatrick earned top spot in the 220-yard dash with a :26.3 clocking. Groves' Karen Johnson went :26.5 for second, and West Bloomfield's Baker went :26.6 for third.

Lahser's Hansen was voted the O&E's Coach of the Year.

Ann Stauffacher · Chris Kirkpatrick · Cindy Smith · Judy Gracey · Maureen Clements

Pam Melzer · Mary Beth Dudash · Laura Yagiela · Kathy Wilson · Dayna Harper

All-Area boys' tennis June 30

Hansen voted coach of the year

By JOHN BOZZO

John Hansen of Bloomfield Hills Lahser, the Observer & Eccentric's first girls' track coach of the year, likes being number one and plans to stay there a long time.

In his first year as head varsity coach of both girls' track and basketball, Hansen has set high goals for his teams and achieved great results.

"I think it's a lot easier to be good," said Hansen at the start of the girls' track season, "if you think you are good. That's the first step."

Yet through the early part of the spring season Lahser did more thinking than running. The Knights lost three of eight dual meets. Two of the defeats were to Metro Suburban Association (MSA) opponents.

"One thing about my team this year," Hansen said, "is that they always rose to the occasion. When it really got down to the mustard, they got tough. They were not only talented, but they also had guts. When it got to the nitty gritty they could reach down for more."

BY THE TIME the post-season tournaments rolled around Lahser was ready. The Knights won the Metro Suburban Association tournament, creating a three-way tie for the league title. The title is based on both tournament performance and dual meet record.

Lahser won the regional championship and finished in a tie for 13th place at the state finals, which were held at Lahser High School.

One of the Lahser team members, Kathy Wilson, was probably the foremost girls' track person in the state of Michigan. She won the mile run at the state finals with a state record of 4:59.8. The first sub-five minute time run by a Michigan high school girl.

"If you can train any harder than she did," Hansen said, "I'd like to see it."

But despite Wilson's individual success, Hansen spent most of the year stressing the team aspect of track.

"I want to get away from thinking about track as an individual sport," Hansen said, "and think of it more as a team sport. Every decision I had to make regarding placement of people was from the standpoint of the team."

Hansen gave his team members a lot of incentives. He held challenge races to see who would run varsity. If a girl ran a fast enough time in a junior varsity meet, she would run varsity the next time.

"THEY KNOW they've got to run good," Hansen said. "I'm trying to build a winning tradition. Winning tradition and pride goes a lot longer than talent in a close race.

"I don't plan on being on top this year only," he added. "I plan on my girls basketball team and girls track team being on top as long as I'm the coach. When the time comes that I can't be on top, then it's time I get out of coaching."

Hansen received both his bachelors and masters degrees in biology from Northern Michigan University. He taught grades seven through 11 and coached junior varsity basketball one year at Corney High School near Escanaba.

The next two years he taught at Holly High School. He coached junior varsity basketball and varsity cross country two years. His cross country team was among the top 10 in Class B both years.

Coach John Hansen

He has been at Lahser the past seven years. Hansen has taught biology and been reserve boys basketball coach, assistant boys' track coach six years, girls' junior varsity basketball coach three years, besides being head girls' track and girls' basketball coach this past school year.

His junior varsity girls' basketball teams were 35-0. Last fall the Lahser girls' varsity team was 21-2, MSA champion and district champion.

"I'M WILLING to put in the time it takes to make a good program," Hansen said. "I've written a 65-page handbook on basketball and another on track. This summer I'm holding a basketball clinic that will include girls in grades seven through 12.

"I'm going to spend my time and hopefully my reward will come," Hansen added. "I'm in it for satisfaction and enjoyment, plus I want to see those kids do well. I'm essentially living my life through my kids."

Girls' track finals

SHOT PUT—1. Laura Yagiela (Avondale), 34-4; 2. Chris Nance (West Bloomfield), 33-1; 3. Ingveld Berge (Rochester High), 35-6.

LONG JUMP—1. Judy Gracey (Bloomfield Hills Lahser), 17-10¾; 2. Katie Hershiser (Birmingham Groves), 16-6; 3. Liz Kretchmer (Lahser), 16-4.

DISCUS—1. Maureen Clements (Groves), 103-2½; 2. Laura Yagiela (Avondale), 101-11; 3. Theresa Manni (Avondale), 102-1.

HIGH JUMP—1. Linda Wright (West Bloomfield), 5-5; Sue Fredley (Lahser), 5-4½; Gail Thorell (Avondale), 5-4½.

TWO-MILE RUN—1. Marcy Nesbitt (Groves), 11:25.7; 2. Sue Heinlen (Farmington Our Lady of Mercy), 11:55.1; 3. Shari Russell (Southfield-Lathrup), 11:50.0.

880-YARD RELAY—1. West Bloomfield Sharon Baker, Monique Ozimkowski, Pam Melzer, Dayna Harper), 1:46.7; 2. Birmingham Groves (Karin Johnson, Sandy O'Dell, Katie Hershiser, Mary Beth Dudash), 1:47.1; 3. Bloomfield Hills Andover (Peggy Peterson, Tina Flessland, Sue McDowell, Chris Kirkpatrick), 1:48.4.

880-YARD RUN—1. Kathy Wilson (Lahser), 2:16.7; 2. Lynn Yadach (Mercy), 2:24.8; 3. Linda Green (West Bloomfield), 2:27.3.

100-YARD DASH—1. Judy Gracey Lahser), :11.4; 2. Chris Kirkpatrick (Andover), :11.2; 3. Leslie Sims (Mercy), :11.6.

110 HURDLES—1. Mary Beth Dudash (Groves), :14.9; 2. Karen Winston (Lathrup), :15.9; 3. Monique Ozimkowski (West Bloomfield), :15.5.

440 DASH—1. Ruth Grabowski (Farmington Harrison), :59.0; 2. Ronda Finkelstein (Lathrup), :59.9; 3. Sue Eveland (Lahser), 1:01.2.

MILE RUN—1. Kathy Wilson (Lahser), 4:5.8; Marcy Nesbitt (Groves), 5:25.7; 3. Michele Collins (Mercy), 5:25.1.

440 RELAY—1. Bloomfield Hills Lahser (Carol Jeffries, Beth Rebold, Cindy Smith, Judy Gracey), :51.0; 2. West Bloomfield (Sharon Baker, Monique Ozimkowski, Cherylynn Walker, Linda Wright), :51.2; 3. Farmington Our Lady of Mercy Leslie Sims, Kathy Whalen, Terri Whalen, Ann Miller), :52.8.

220 DASH—1. Chris Kirkpatrick (Andover), :26.3; 2. Karin Johnson (Groves), :26.5; 3. Sharon Baker (West Bloomfield), :26.6.

MILE RELAY—1. Bloomfield Hills Lahser (Sue Eveland, Leeta Grayson, Sue Staffacher, Kathy Wilson), 4:08.3; 2. Southfield-Lathrup (Cathy Dusenak, Kim Rosenstel, Gloa Kunkel, Ronda Finkelstein), 4:09.7; 3. Farmington Harrison (Sharon Hollatz, Dawn Johnston, Debbie Sweeney, Ruth Grabowski), 4:10.1.

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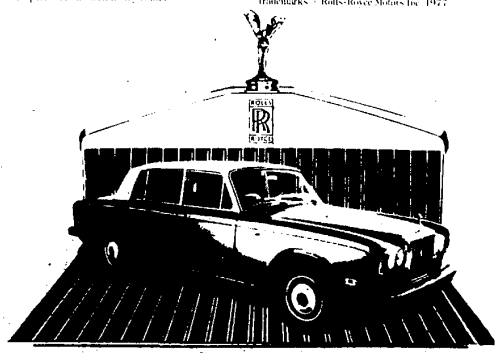

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