

Falcons surprise at relays

By Doug Funke
staff writer

All of the pieces fell together for Plymouth Salem Saturday during the 11th running of the Observer-land Relays.

The Rocks put on a spectacular performance — placing first in eight of the 16 events — to compile 64 points en route to their first championship ever at Observerland.

Farmington High placed second in the team standings with 44 points and was followed by Livonia Churchill, third, 40; Detroit Catholic Central, fourth, 36; and Redford Bishop Borgess, fifth, 32.

Fifteen teams participated.

SALEM COACH Gary Balconi talked quietly but with pride while his trackmen were whooping it up in celebration.

"We were fortunate because we won all the races we figured we would win," Balconi said. "The handoffs were all there, the kids were

healthy, we worked hard and today we arrived."

Salem arrived in a big way. The Rocks broke their own meet record in discus with an aggregate distance of 439-10. Bob Pittaway led Salem in that event by breaking the individual record with a best throw of 63.9.

Salem also bested the field in pole vault with an aggregate height of 36 feet.

Scott Bublin, a junior, spearheaded Salem by winning first place medals in three running events.

Bublin teamed with Brian Lewnadowski, Leigh Langkabel and Pittaway to win the 800 relay (1:33.8) and with Scott Smith, Tom Kellisher and Jim Spooner in the 400 relay (45.7).

Bublin also surprised many people by winning the open 100-yard dash (10.5).

Salem bested the field in three other events.

Steve Schaffer, Mike McBride, Langkabel and Pittaway clocked 3:31.9 in the mile relay. Langkabel,

Lewnadowski, Smith and Pittaway posted a time of 2:31.4 in the sprint medley relay. Leland Chang, Chris Kopsch, Geoff Baker and McBride had an effort of 8:28.11 in the two mile relay.

The Observerland title is the first championship the Rocks have won in a relay meet since Balconi began coaching in 1975.

"It's always an honor in this meet to beat teams like Churchill, Stevenson and Catholic Central," Balconi said. "This is the strongest team overall we've ever had."

TWO OTHER individual records were broken during the meet.

Craig Kietly, from Farmington, cleared 6-8 in high jump and Edward Blawiewicz leaped 21-11/2 in long jump.

Farmington rolled up most of its points in the field events.

The Falcons set a team record with an aggregate height of 18-1/2 in high jump. Jeff Beard and John Clappison teamed with Kietly.

Farmington placed second in discus, long jump, high jump and in the 440 relay.

Livonia Franklin was the only other team to finish first in more than one relay.

The Patriots won the four-mile relay in 18:46.8 with Mike Gerardi, Paul Coburn, Jeff Bristow and Mike White and the distance medley relay in 11:10.22 with Randy Rusecek, Chris Zimmer, Gerardi and Coburn.

Detroit Catholic Central, Livonia Churchill and Redford Bishop Borgess were the only other teams except Salem, Franklin and Farmington to win relays.

CC totalled 133-4/4 in shot put with Dan Bailey, John Widmer and Pat Reid doing the throwing.

The Chargers won the shuttle hurdle relay in 59.3 with Ken Romps, Steve O'Hara, Norm Recla and Jeff O'neenan doing the work.

The team of Chuck Gregory, Jim Hardenburgh and Blawiewicz totalled an aggregate distance of 59-8/4 in long jump.

Records tumble as lifters shine

By Brad Emons
staff writer

They came in all shapes and sizes. And a squat, muscular lad put on quite a show for the hometown fans.

Five records fell by the wayside on Sunday in the 1981 Michigan Weightlifting Federation State Championships held at Canton High School's Phase III Gym.

Pete Bundarin, 26, a 1979 graduate of Canton, set three junior records in winning the 181-pound class before an enthusiastic and curious crowd of 250.

"I think it's the biggest meet I've seen in Michigan," meet director Gene Baker said. "It was one of the lowest meets as far as lifters, but the ones that came were very high caliber."

Bundarin, who plans to attend Schoolcraft College in the fall, gave the fans something to cheer about when he lifted 270 pounds to win the snatch competition. George Dreaschlin of Mt. Olympus Barbell Club was second (248) and 30-year-old Casimir Maniac of Flint was third (231 1/4).

Bundarin's lift broke a state junior mark of 260 held by Livonia's Bud Charniga, who set the record back in 1967.

The Canton graduate, who currently works as a cashier in a local bakery, came back to lift 322 1/2 pounds in the clean and jerk, also eclipsing the old junior mark. His combined total of 222 1/2 broke yet another record.

"These are the best lifts I've seen him do," Baker said. "Pete is a very

intense competitor who works very hard."

"I had a lot of friends there and was nice to lift in front of them," Bundarin said. "It was pretty satisfying, but after I had done it I realized how far I have to go."

BAKER SAID Bundarin's lifts on Sunday would have clinched a junior national title, had he competed last month in Chicago.

"I've been lifting for six years," Bundarin said. "I got interested seeing it on television during the 1972 Olympics."

"Last year I didn't lift at all. Then I started train hard the last six months. I work out five days a week, three hours a day. I have my own gym down in my basement."

Dr. Bob Suchyta of Dearborn, 33, competing in the 242-pound class, set a state record in the snatch when he pumped up 336 pounds. His total of 755 pounds was also a new state best. He was also named the best lifter in the second session (181 and up).

Charniga, 30, who will compete in San Francisco next month in the AAU Nationals, won the 220-pound class with a total of 710 1/4. He was unable, however, to break any of the three state marks he owns. Charniga represented the best Michigan Heavy Athletic Club.

Steve Rose, 18, of Royal Oak, won the 198-pound class with a total of 638 1/4. Rich Counts, 31, was second (584) and Randy Hunter of Warren was third (578 1/4).

Don Lingerfelt, who went unplaced in the superheavyweight class (over 242), lifted 319 1/2 pounds in the snatch.

Farmington trackmen trounce foe

Farmington High's 800-meter relay (Mike Ryan, Jim Simmons, Paul Polus and Steve Boykin) finished first with a time of 1:35.5 to help the Falcons batter Walled Lake Central 112-20 in an Inter Lakes League boys' track meet.

The same relay was timed in 46.5 in the 440 relay for Farmington, which owns a 3-1 overall mark and a 3-0 record in the Inter Lakes League.

Craig Kietly tripled for Farmington, winning the long jump (6 feet, 6 inches), the long jump (20-8) and the 300-meter low hurdles (40-4).

Kevin Davis was a double winner, taking the 100 dash (11.29) and the 200 (23.3). Tom Felten finished first in the 1600 run (4:47.0) and the 3200 (10:33.0).

HARRISON 76
W.L. WESTERN 56

Farmington Harrison, with Ken Koppo winning three individuals, overcame

Walled Lake Western 76-56 in a Western Six League boys' track meet on Thursday.

Kopko threw the discus 125 feet for one first, and then won the 440 (53.4) and the 220 (24.7). Steve Shanbon won the high jump (6-0) and the long jump (19-5), and Mike Boyd took the 120-yard high hurdles (16.4) and the 330 low hurdles (43.1).

Steve Sweeney of Harrison won the 100 dash in 10.6 and finished second in the 220 24.5.

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The win left Harrison with a 3-1 overall record and a 1-1 WSL showing.

JOHN GLENN 92
NORTH FARMINGTON 39

North Farmington won only three events in its 92-39 drubbing by Westland John Glenn in the Northwest Suburban League on Thursday. North is 4-1 overall and 2-1 in the conference.

"I know it looks bad, but we didn't roll over," said Ed Davis, North's assistant coach. "In fact, our kids ran pretty well. It's just that Glenn is tough this year, and their kids came out smoking."

Mark Bowditch won the high jump (5-8) for North, and teammate John Winterbottom won the 400-meter dash (52.1). John Koppo was timed in 41.0 in winning the 300 low hurdles.

Dale Boone of Glenn won the discus in 140-5 and placed second in the shot put with a loss of 48-1. Glenn is unbeaten in three dual meets this spring.

Southfield Christian is 4-1. Its next game is Tuesday at Ann Arbor Green Hills.

REGINA 5
MERCY 3

There were more total errors (seven) than there were hits (three) in a girls' Catholic League softball game between Harper Woods Regina and Farmington Our Lady of Mercy Thursday afternoon.

Regina won 5-3 behind the one-hit pitching of Lori Spencer, who went all the way and struck out five. The losing pitcher was Meri Stockwell (2-2 for the season).

Hawk netters slip by Raiders

Farmington Harrison's Evan Hughes, playing No. 3 singles, defeated North Farmington's Tom Ferrer, 7-5, to spark the Hawks to a close 4-3 victory Thursday.

Harrison's narrow win over its arch-rival raises its perfect to 3-0 for the season.

Adam Gordon, Harrison's unbeaten

sophomore, clipped Glenn Glicker in straight sets, 6-4, 6-2, to win the No. 1 singles match.

Other Hawk victories saw Dave Brady (No. 2 singles) defeat Mike Gaskill, 6-4, 6-3, while Andre Berk and Mike Corey (No. 1 doubles) beat Dave Livon and Don VanCott, 6-2, 6-1.

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FLOYD A. CAIRNS, City Clerk
City of Farmington Hills

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