

## Sports

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## Western Lakes track titles on line

Girls title there for the taking

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

Livonia Stevenson's girls track team is ranked No. 1 in Observersland. Unbeaten in dual meets, it is the champion of the Western Lakes Lakes Division. And it won the Observersland meet.

So let's not fool around. Let's crown the Spartans Western Lakes champs right now and forget about Wednesday's 12-team league meet at Walled Lake Central. Just rubber stamp it, it's a mere formality.

Uh, not exactly. "I don't see it that way at all," said Paul Holmberg, Stevenson coach. "I don't see any clear-cut favorite. We won on our depth, we get the seconds and thirds and our share of firsts. But those people who were getting firsts in dual meets may find it very hard to score points in a 12-team meet."

His point is well taken. The Western Lakes meet will enhance the chances of teams with premier individual talent. Teams like Westland John Glenn, which had great difficulty winning dual meets, will likely score well Wednesday. Why? Because a sterling performer like Karen Opp alone can win her team 40 points.

"BUT 40 points won't win the league meet," advises Plymouth Canton coach George Przygodski, whose team won the Western Division title and is among the favorites to win Wednesday.

"First-place firepower is definitely going to decide this meet, but for Glenn to win, Karen Opp is going to have to run in 10 events," he said. "This could be the closest league meet ever. You know, I look at this thing and we may not score in six events. We have just an outside chance at winning."

If the two division champs are leary of their chances, who can win it?

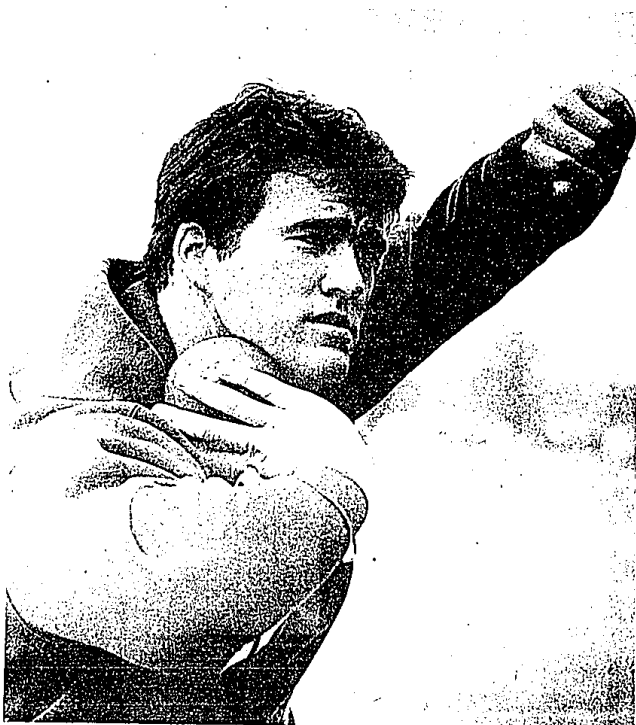
Realistically, any of six or seven teams. Stevenson, Canton and North Farmington top the list. Livonia Franklin, Livonia Churchill, Plymouth Salem and even Farmington could make a run at it.

The individuals will decide the issue, so here's a look at the top people in each event:

**Shot put:** Good battle here between Nancy Cothran of North, Stacy Graham of Glenn and Patti Brandon of Franklin.

**Discus:** Brandon and Cothran will score, but Salem's Karen Marcinak will be the one to beat.

**High jump:** Angie Miller of Canton and Tammy Spengler of North have both reached 5-0 this year. Walled



Craig Petersmark, a regional champion in the shot put and state qualifier in the discus, will be among the leaders for Farmington at the

Western Lakes boys track and field meet Wednesday at Livonia Churchill.

RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Lake Western's Pam Reselle was a regional champ at 5-2.

**Long jump:** Kathy Long of Stevenson has been at the top of this event all season. She'll be challenged by Canton's Sherry Figurski, Franklin's Lisa Dominato, Danielle Price of Western and Opp.

**100-meter hurdles:** Dominato and Stevenson's Karen Miller are the top guns here. Salem's Amy Johnson will also challenge.

**300 hurdles:** Farmington's Lori Casaroli and Miller have recorded the lowest times in the league to date.

**100 dash:** Long and Amy Hollman give Stevenson outstanding point potential here. Keep an eye on Dena Head of Salem.

**200 dash:** North Farmington's Spengler twins, Terry and Tammy, could do serious damage. Michelle

Jablonski of Western will also be in the hunt.

**400 dash:** This is Karen Opp's race. She is the only Observersland runner to crack 1:00.00 in this event so far. Tricia Garney of Canton and Julie Garzynski of North have the unenviable task of chasing her.

**800 run:** Opp has the area's best time here, also. Suzanne Moore of Stevenson, Carol Sulick of Churchill and Anna Quenneville of Farmington will all be in the chase.

**1,600 run:** Jenny Anderson of Farmington Harrison has emerged as the class of this event with her stunning 5:19.3 run at the Class B regional. Karen Kantor and Sheila Taormina of Stevenson and Marie Jarosz of Canton will give her a good run.

**3,200 run:** Anderson again has the top time (11:47.8). Rachel Mann of

Canton, Kantor, Ginger Rowland of Glenn, Michele Economou of Stevenson, Nicole Jelley of Farmington and Donna Chuba of North are all contenders here.

**400 relay:** Up for grabs. Plymouth Salem has a real good team (52.3). Stevenson can put together a good one, so can Walled Lake Western and North.

**800 relay:** North Farmington's race here. Salem, Stevenson and Franklin could also do well.

**1,600 relay:** Harrison has done 4:16.3 here. A repeat of that would be hard to beat.

**3,200 relay:** Stevenson (9:54.3) and Canton (9:56.0) will stage a nice race in this one.

The field events will begin at 3:30 p.m. with track preliminaries at 4 p.m. Track finals are scheduled for 6 p.m.

Farmington boys among favorites

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

One coach will secretly tell you that Livonia Churchill is the team to beat Wednesday at the Western Lakes boys track meet.

Another will tell you to keep your eyes on North Farmington. Still another will say Farmington and Plymouth Canton are the favorites.

Nobody really knows, and that is the beauty of Wednesday's conference meet at Churchill.

"This is the most balance I have ever seen in this meet," said Plymouth Salem coach Gary Balconi, whose team shouldn't be overlooked in the list of contenders.

"Any one of five teams could win this meet," said North Farmington coach Dave Thorne. "It all depends on who does what to who."

Farmington, the champions of the Lakes Division, and Canton, champs of the Western Division and the Observersland meet, are expected to be frontrunners Wednesday. The teams are loaded with depth and have top individual competitors.

North Farmington possesses the league's best sprint team and one of the top field-event teams. They also have a strong distance runner in Kirk Armstrong.

**CHURCHILL** IS an extremely deep team, but short on first-place-caliber individuals (with the exception of pole vault and high jump).

"Don't count us out," said Balconi. "We'll kick and scratch and if anyone messes up, hopefully we'll be ready to step in. We're going to gamble. When you do that you can either win it all or go broke. We feel we have nothing to lose."

An intangible factor which could affect the outcome of the meet is the state meet, scheduled for Saturday, two short days after the league meet.

Some coaches, like Farmington's Dave Catherman and Thorne, may have to decide to limit the activity of their front-line people.

Here is a look at the top competitors in each event. Keep in mind that this was done prior to the meet's seeding meeting. This listing is based primarily on the Observersland listings compiled by Churchill coach Fred Price.

**Shot put:** A real war here between Farmington's Craig Petersmark, North's Wes Fringle and Franklin's Chris Forry.

**Discus:** Again, Petersmark and Pringle battle, with Stevenson's Matt Pulick and Westland John Glenn's Harold Lovelace.

**High jump:** Steve Genyk has jumped 6-3 for Canton this year, but Churchill's Jim Rintilla will be hard to beat here.

**Long jump:** Canton's Tyrone Reeves should win this event. The regional champ has the area's longest leap with a 22-3/4. Teammate Roger Trice also will score highly here.

**Pole vault:** Churchill could go 1-2 here with Eric Brandemuhl and Eric Gudeman. Salem's Ron Plawko could be a surprise, as could Andy Holliday of Farmington and Eric Wise of Harrison.

**100-meter dash:** Scott Selzer of North Farmington and Salem's Brian Neuhardt both have run 10.9 this year. Harrison's Aaron Yaverski also will challenge.

**200 dash:** Selzer and Neuhardt have the top times, although Neuhardt will most likely run the 400. Yaverski and Canton's Brian Carney also may be factors.

**400 dash:** Neuhardt is a regional champ in this event and should win it Wednesday. Mark Weintraub of North and Jim Young of Canton could give a battle here.

**800 run:** Farmington's Al Stebbins would win this event if he ran it; his best time of 1:57.7 easily tops the league. But Catherman may use him in the 1,600 only. Glenn's Kyle Szukalis, Harrison's Chad Burgess, Franklin's Scott Butler and Stevenson's Matt Gerwols could challenge.

**1,600 run:** Stebbins is a regional champ here. His 4:20.0 tops Observersland. North's Kirk Armstrong, Glenn's Dan Liedel and Churchill's Rob Annett also are very good here.

**3,200 run:** Chris Inch of Farmington owns this one. The regional champ has been as good as 9:25.2 in this event. Liedel and Armstrong will chase.

**110 high hurdles:** Canton is awfully good here with Bryan Whiteley and Dan Houdek. North's Chris Wojtowicz should score as well.

**300 low hurdles:** Salem (Chris Hill), Canton (Houdek) and North (Wojtowicz) will score here.

**400 relay:** Give it to North. The regional champs went 45.5 at Hazel Park. Canton and Salem chase.

**800 relay:** Salem, Canton and Franklin are 2-3-4 in Observersland.

**1,600 relay:** Again, Salem and Canton, but Farmington, North and Churchill could put together strong teams.

**3,200 relay:** If Farmington wants to, it can win this one going away. The Falcons have run an 8:07.3 this season. Harrison also has a good team, as does Churchill.

Field events will commence at 3:15 p.m. with the track preliminaries at 5 p.m. The finals will begin at 6 p.m.

## Hawks' Schmidt hurls no-hitter

## baseball

up the winning run.

Eric Green had a pair of defensive gems, throwing out runners at home from center field in both the first and sixth innings. The plays were crucial as Walled Lake Central came back in the fifth with three runs to tie the score, 3-3.

Bob Curtis was the winning pitcher, striking out six and allowing five hits.

**B.H. ANDOVER 4, N. FARMINGTON 0:** The Raiders could muster just two hits as Bloomfield Hills Andover won the Class A pre-district game.

Bryan Bosscaeven and Trent Hiner had the two hits for North Farmington (11-11).

**W. BLOOMFIELD 11, N. FARMINGTON 0:** Jill Krumm beat the Raiders at both the plate and on the mound Friday in a pre-district mercy game.

Krumm, who pitched a two-hitter, drove in five runs including a two-run homer. West Bloomfield is 16-0.

**softball**

Julie Gallagher and Tracey Schroen had Farmington's two hits.

Lisa Edwards took the loss for Farmington (8-14).

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Mark Schmidt saw one earlier in the season and decided he'd like to try one Friday in Farmington Harrison's Class B pre-district baseball game.

Schmidt, who was one the losing end of Adam Koch's no-hitter in a game against Plymouth Canton earlier this season, threw one of his own as the Hawks blanked Fenton, 10-0.

Harrison (11-12) goes on to district play Saturday at Dexter.

And Schmidt's curve ball is what helped get the Hawks there. In six innings' work, he walked five and struck out one.

"It's a curve ball pitcher," said Harrison coach John Herrington of the junior right-handed pitcher. "He kept the ball down."

**FARMINGTON 4, W.L. CENTRAL 3:** Friday, the Falcons snapped an 18-game losing streak against Walled Lake Central in a Class A pre-district game.

And it couldn't have come at a better time.

"They bunted us crazy," said Farmington coach Rich Roy. "They did what they wanted."

Nalodka and Edwards combined for a two-hitter against the Falcons.

Harrison backed up the no-hit bid with some excellent fielding, turning four double plays.

Sam Rineer helped out at the plate, connecting for three hits. Rineer's three-run triple fueled a four-run rally by the Hawks in the sixth inning.

Harrison, with a nine-hit attack, posted a three-run lead after the first two innings. The Hawks added seven runs in the final two innings to make it a rout.

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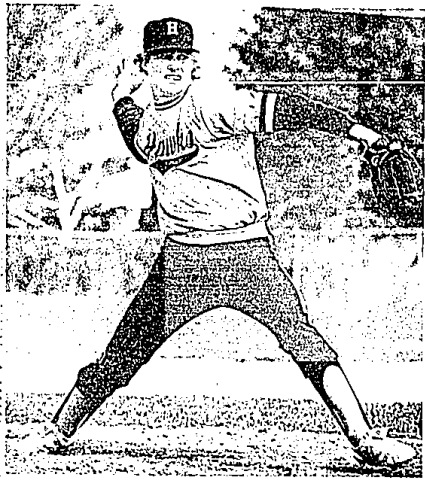
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RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Harrison junior Mark Schmidt fired a no-hitter at Fenton in a Class B pre-district contest Friday. He walked five and struck out one. Harrison advances to the district round at Dexter Saturday.

Mercy will advance to the district round of the Class A state tournament Saturday at Southfield Civic Center, where the Marlins play Southfield at 10 a.m. The winner of that contest plays the winner of the

Farmington Hills Mercy was rough on Farmington Friday in a pre-district softball game.

The Marlins had the Falcons calling uncle after five innings, winning 14-0 in a mercy-rule-shortened contest.

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