

# All-Area track men

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was runner-up in the regional in the 400 with a 46.1 — the best time in the area.

Brian Neuhardt, Plymouth Salem, 400 dash: Another junior, Neuhardt was the Western Lakes champ with a 49.6. He won the regional with a 49.9, and ran a ninth best 49.4 at the state meet. He won every race in the 400 with the exception of the state meet.

Bret Thirjung, Wayne Memorial, 800 run: This senior was a very valuable man in the Zebra's Wolverine title run. He was a standout in four events. He placed first at the regional with a 1:57.4, second only to Farmington's Al Stebbins in the area.

Al Stebbins, Farmington, 1,600 run: One half of the Falcons' dynamic duo of junior distance men. Stebbins placed third at the state meet with a 4:17.71. He won at regionals with a 4:19.97. He was also a regional champ in the 800.

Chris Inch, Farmington, 3,200 run: Inch placed second to Monroe's Todd Williams at the state meet, running a fine 9:12.61. Inch won the regionals with a 9:25.22. He was champion in the Western Lakes in both the 1,600 and 3,200. Both Inch and Stebbins will be in line for all-American honors next season.

## RELAYS

North Farmington (Marc Brown, Mark Weintraub, Chris Christman, Scott Selzer), 400 meter: It is very rare when a suburban prep school can put together a sprint team of this caliber. This quartet placed sixth in the state with a 43.51 and won at regionals with a 43.47. It also won a Western Lakes record (44.27).

Bishop Borgess (Mark Pittman, Brian Kelly, Ivan Cotman, Marion Pittman), 800 meter: First place at the Observerland meet, first at the regionals and fourth at the state meet. Their top time of 1:28.6 is easily the area's best.

Bishop Borgess (Jason Cazadillas, Mark Pittman, Brian Kelly, Ivan Cotman), 1,600 meter: Elks Relays champ, Observerland champ, Operation Friendship champ, Catholic League runner-up and third at the CMU Relays. Their best time was a 3:22.1, four seconds faster than the area's second best.

Farmington (Bruce Kraft, Ron Smedley, John Pickens, Al Stebbins), 3,200 meter: Farmington coach Jerry Young specializes in coaching distance runners; this group, two sophomores and two seniors, demonstrates his effectiveness. It ran an 8:04.2 at the Western Lakes meet, shattering the old record by nine seconds.

Coach of the year: Plymouth Canton's Rob Neu took the Chiefs to two first-ever titles this year, the Observerland and Western Lakes. But Neu is first to deflect the credit to the man he replaced.

"Mike Spitz deserves all the credit," Neu said. "This is his team, he built it."

Certainly Spitz should share in the Chiefs' success, but Neu was no innocent bystander this season. As he proved with the Canton basketball programs, he relates well with the athletes and is an excellent motivator.

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