

# Defending champ minus key people

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

North Farmington pulled off a major coup in winning the Western Lakes girls track championship last year, but the two athletes most responsible for that surprise victory have graduated.

Wendy Love and Tammy Spengler accounted for most of North's points in the league meet, each one scoring in four events.

While both were on the sprint relay teams, Love earned points in the long jump and 400-meter run and Spengler, who was subsequently named to the All-Observer team as a sprinter, in the 100 and 200 dashes.

The Raiders were a middle-of-the-pack team during the dual-meet season, but they put it all together when it counted most and edged Plymouth Canton by a 73-72 count.

"We kinda snuck up on some people last year," North coach Ralph Temby said.

"THE GIRLS performed well at the league meet, and everything fit properly as far as the scoring went. We had everyone in the right places."

While the stars of that team are gone, North does return some athletes with solid credentials and who contributed to the championship effort.

The weight events should be a definite strength with seniors Rudi Butcher and Cindy Cramer returning. Butcher was league champ in the shot put (34-37) and Cramer in the discus (115-5).

With the departure of Spengler, sophomore Debra Neuman becomes the top sprinter after finishing

## track

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— Ralph Temby  
North track coach

fourth in the WLAA in the 100. She also was on the first-place 800 relay team with Love, Spengler and junior Jennifer Stoe.

"(The sprint events are) an area we'll be searching a little bit unless somebody comes out of the woodwork that we don't expect," Temby said.

Senior Julie Garczynski, who was fourth in the open 400, Stoe and senior Amy Gallus, a transfer from Colorado, will run the middle distance events. Gallus also is a potential high jumper.

SENIOR DONNA Chuba, who placed fourth in the 3200 run and sixth in the 1600, is North's top distance runner, and junior Lisa Rives, after a season of cross country competition, has been moved from the middle distances to the longer runs to bolster the Raiders in those events.



RANDY BORGSTRAFF photograph

Cindy Cramer gives North Farmington an experienced hurdler, but her best event is the discus, in which she is the defending league champ.

North suffered a loss when sophomore Colleen Brady moved to another state. She competed in the high jump and distance runs as a freshman.

The Raiders expect to be better in the hurdles with veterans Cramer and Butcher returning. Seniors Missy Warnick, who has made a lot of progress, according to Temby, and Tracy Groves and sophomore Lori Wiegand supply depth.

Senior Sandra Schmitt will most likely join Neuman and Stoe on the sprint relay teams, but the Raiders are still looking for the fourth member.

North once again will face tough competition in the Lakes Division, but Temby sees Canton, with many top-flight athletes back, as the team to beat in the WLAA. The season begins Thursday, April 14, with a home meet against Clarkston.

# Falcons have cause for optimism

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Farmington is "looking forward to being competitive" once again in girls track, according to coach Bruce Brown.

And there is any number of reasons why the Falcons are entitled to an optimistic outlook.

A few of them: Julie Lawton, Kristi Devine, Carrie Maier, Jo Fox, Amy Trunk, Bonnie Stecker and Jennifer Kiel.

Farmington has enough returning talent and up-and-coming prospects to believe it can once again prosper to the top in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

The Falcons were 4-1 in division dual meets last year (second place) and finished third in the league meet, just seven points behind champion North Farmington.

running in our division," Brown said. "When you get to the conference meet, it's hard to predict because everybody is stepping on everybody's toes."

"The girls are excited and positive," he added. "We're looking forward to being competitive, and that's all you can ask."

The Falcons have an excellent high jumper in Lawton, a junior who jumped 5-2 last year. She was second in the league behind only Angie Miller, the eventual state champion from Plymouth Canton.

Also, in the field events, Farmington has Devine, a senior who was on the All-Observer team in the discus last year and also excels in the shot put. She threw the discus 115-4 and was a regional champion. Devine set a school record of 34-5 in the shot put.

Maier, a sophomore, will do double duty again, shuttling between track meets and soccer games. She and senior Jo Fox give the Falcons a pair of quality sprinters.

Like the boys, Farmington has a tradition in girls cross country, and the stars of that team, Stecker (senior) and Kiel (sophomore) will make the Falcons competitive in the distance runs. Trunk, another sophomore who starred in the fall sport, will run the open 400.

"It's surprising. Though we had a good cross country team, we're probably thinnest in the distance events," Brown said, adding a number of hurdles are playing other spring sports. "We have good kids, but not numbers."

Brown is hoping a pair of runners have overcome injuries and will help in the middle distances.

Junior Christi Derwinski (400 meters) had a good freshman season, but she had a stress fracture last year and was unable to run much. Junior Julie Kendall also was bothered by nagging injuries, but can help in the 1600 if she stays healthy.

Farmington graduated Anna Quenneville, one of the area's best in the 800 and who is second on the University of Illinois team as a freshman. Brown is hoping Junior Maureen O'Dell can fill the void.

THE FALCONS ALSO lost a good hurdler in Lori Casaroli, who went to state in the 300-meter race, but sophomore Jody Perris was the team's best 100-meter hurdler last year. Plus, there are a lot of good freshmen coming up, Brown said.

Maier, who is also the team's best long jumper and may try her hand at the open 400, junior Angie Forge, another 200 sprinter, Trunk, Fox and junior Nicole Tosco, a transfer from Groves Pointe South, give the Falcons plenty of people to work with in the sprint relays.

"The biggest question mark is where we're going to find people to run the two-mile relay," said Brown, reiterating his concern about depth in the distance events.

"I don't like to double and triple kids," he added. "I like to bring them along slowly, so they have something left at the end of the year."

## all-area gymnastics

Continued from Page 1

meet champion on beam, floor and the vault. Her best scores during the last season were 8.7 on vault, 8.15 on bars, 8.95 on beam, 8.95 on floor and 33.45 in the all-around. Channon was the team captain the last three years.

"(She) is an exceptional all-round gymnast — my best four-year competitor," Cunningham said.

Jackie Daly, junior, Farmington: Daly finished 10th in the state floor exercise (8.7), and she was seventh in that event at the regional. The Falcon standout has achieved All-American status on vault, beam and floor.

Daly was first on the vault in every dual meet except one, when she finished second, and was Lakes Division champion in that event. She was the WLAA champion on vault and beam, and she also was ninth on floor and the all-around.

Daly had season-high scores of 9.3 on vault, 8.7 on beam, 9.05 on floor and 34.45 in the all-around.

"Jackie competed for her own enjoyment this season instead of trying to live up to the expectations of her family, friends and myself," Cunningham said.

"It really made a difference in her performance and allowed her to find more success. I'm very proud of her accomplishments, but more importantly I'm glad to see her having fun with the sport of gymnastics again."

Donita Ahnert, senior, Clarenceville: Ahnert was the Western Wayne Gymnastics League champion in three events: beam, vault and all-around.

She is a four-year letter winner, a two-time team most valuable performer and an All-American on the beam.

Ahnert's season-best scores were 8.7 on vault, 8.25 on bars, 8.6 on bars, 8.45 on floor and 33.35 in the all-around.

"Donita has had complete dedication to the sport and the team," coach Chuck Thompson said. "She is a truly an outstanding competitor."

Dana Holda, junior, Salem: Holda had an impressive performance in regional competition, placing seventh on bars and qualifying for the state meet. She also was sixth on bars in the WLAA.

Holda, who was elected captain of next year's Salem squad, had season-high scores of 8.6 on vault, 8.45 on bars and 8.35 on floor.

Nicki Yuskowicz, senior, N. Farmington: Yuskowicz was 27th on floor exercise (8.4), 4th in state team competition, 20th on bars (8.25) and 45th on vault (8.45).

She was second in the Western Lakes meet in an all-around gymnast (33.9). In the Plymouth Invitational, Yuskowicz was ninth on floor (8.9), 12th in the all-around (33.45) and 14th on bars (8.9).

Kristin Szutarski, freshman, N. Farmington: Szutarski took fourth place in the vault (8.45), bars (8.6) and all-around (32.9) in the state team meet. In the Plymouth Invitational, she was seventh on vault (8.9), 15th in the all-around (33.0) and 20th on bars (8.15).

She was 33rd on bars (8.4) and 36th on vault (8.75) in the state team meet.

In the Plymouth Invitational, she was seventh on vault (8.9), 15th in the all-around (33.0) and 20th on bars (8.15).

## Davidson falls in 2nd round

Overland players fared relatively well at the Omega Easter Bowl junior tennis championships held last week at the Dorat Hotel and Country Club in Miami, Fla.

In the Girls 18's, Livonia's Carrie Cunningham, the No. 5 seed, reached the quarterfinals before losing to No. 4 seed Deborah Graham of Fountain Valley, Calif., 7-5, 6-1. Both are members of the newly created U.S. Junior National Team.

Cunningham, a student at Churchill High School, scored victories over Karyn Sue Moss of Pembroke Pines, Fla. (3-6, 7-6, 6-3), Kyle Johnson of Escondido, Calif. (6-0, 6-3) and Jennifer Brennan of Houston, Tex. (6-1, 6-2).

In the Boys 18's, Mike Herb of Bloomfield Hills reached the round of 16 before falling to No. 7 seed Frank Salazar of Glendale, Calif., 6-4, 6-0. The Birmingham Brother Rice student scored wins over David Blair of Gainesville, Fla. (7-5, 6-1) and Joey Deer of Westfield, N.J. (6-1, 6-2).

Meanwhile, Redford Catholic Central High senior Steve Campbell, a Detroit native, was dumped in his first-round match by Puerto Rican Orlando Bravo, 6-4, 6-4.

IN THE GIRLS 16's, Kori Davidson of Farmington Hills was ousted in the second round by No. 9 seed Meredith Geiger of Oklahoma City, Okla., 6-1, 6-4.

Davidson, who attends Harrison High, downed Kristina Soderquist in a first-round match, 6-1, 6-3.

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