

Falcon hitting stride

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Jennifer Kiel could have coasted through the finish line Thursday afternoon, but she was still running hard at the end.

The cross country standout ran a career-best time of 19:38 at Oakland Community College and paced the Farmington girls to their 21-35 victory over Plymouth Salem.

Kiel, however, was running another race in addition to the Lakes Division dual-meet finale. The race she was concentrating on was in her head.

Kiel was running a psychological race against Colleen Yuhn of Walled Lake Central and Lisa Rives of North Farmington, two of her biggest rivals.

"(Farmington coach John Barrett) and my friends keep reminding me that Colleen is out there, and Lisa is right on my tail," Kiel said. "We have a good team, but when I'm out there by myself I just need something to keep me going and make me run harder."

IN FACT, EARLIER in the season, Kiel set the OCC course record of 20:02, which was subsequently broken by Rives, who ran 19:51. Yuhn in turn broke her record by running 19:12.

"Lisa and I are good friends, but I wanted to beat that time," Kiel said. "I've always been second or third to (Yuhn)."

"I keep that in mind and want to keep improving my time. In my mind, I just pretend I'm running against her."

"Yuhn is a senior and much more experienced runner," she added, "but I'm not going to give up on the fact I could still beat her."

Kiel, a junior who heads a group of quality underclassmen, will cross paths with Yuhn and Rives again Wednesday when the Western Lakes Activities Association has its league meet at Cass Benton Park.

The Falcons, 8-0 overall, won the Lakes Division title outright with a 5-0 record by beating Salem, 3-2 and 4-3.

BUT THE ROCKS had hopes of surprising Farmington and creating a three-way tie for the division championship. Salem had previously



BILL DRESLER/staff photographer

Jennifer Kiel was first in the girls race, running a personal-best time of 19:38 at Oakland Community College.

only lost to Livonia Stevenson.

"It would have been quite an accomplishment for this team," said Salem coach John Gravin, noting the Rocks have fine runners in Traci Thomas and Shannon Donnelly but not as much depth.

"(The others) have been consistent, good runners all year, and today we were asking them to be great. At the one-mile point, Farmington had its eyes open, because we were in position."

"I think it would have been the upset of the year," he added.

Thomas was second at 21:07, but the Falcons captured the next three places with Jenny Derwinski finishing in 21:12 and freshmen Allison Davis and Sheri Yutalo running 21:14 and 21:41, respectively.

Salem made a bid to stay with Farmington as Donnelly and Beth Cunningham took the Nos. 6 and 7 places with 21:39 and 22:02 times, holding the Falcons to a 13-15 lead.

FARMINGTON WRAPPED up the victory when Amy Trunk came in eighth at 22:04 and Carrie Walter, another freshman, provided blocking help with a 10th-place finish and 22:17 time.

Salem's Jenny Harris was ninth at

22:05, and Sarah Hayes rounded out the team scoring when she finished 11th in 23:02.

"I figured if everybody ran their usual race, we'd be OK," Barrett said. "Again, the freshman came through and ran well today."

Because of that, the Falcons continue to be successful despite losing three of their top six runners — Junior Margaret Martin, senior Margaret O'Dell and sophomore Cheryl Casaroli — from a year ago to injury or illness.

"Our top six runners today have done an excellent job the last two weeks of running hard at practice and taking up where the injured runners left off," Barrett said. "They're really doing a bang-up job."

Despite also having a career-best time, Salem's Thomas fell just short of her personal goal of running 21:00. She has the 10th-best time in school history and needed that time to move up to No. 9.

"I felt I held back in some places," the senior said. "Once I heard my two-mile time, I thought I had the time I wanted and slowed down, and I shouldn't have."

Chiefs clip Farmington

Plymouth Canton is primed for tonight's first-round district soccer game with rival Plymouth Salem, following its impressive 5-0 victory Wednesday over Farmington.

The Chiefs, who improved to 6-7-4 overall by winning the Western Lakes Activities Association crossover game, play the Rocks at 7 p.m. in the Centennial Educational Park stadium.

The teams split their two meetings this season. Canton beat Salem 4-2 in the consolation game of the Plymouth Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 3, but the Rocks, 11-4-2, avenged that defeat with a 5-2 victory on Monday, Sept. 12.

"We've won two in a row, and it's a good time of year to do it with Salem coming up Monday," Canton coach Mike Morgan said.

"Monday's game will be a pretty emotional game. We know Salem has had a successful season, and it should be a great game."

THE CHIEFS HAVEN'T had the physical season they envisioned at the start, but Canton, buoyed by the solid

soccer

In district soccer action today, Farmington entertains Nord and Harrison is host to Oxford. Both games are at 4 p.m. North plays the Farmington-Novici winner on Wednesday.

defensive effort against Farmington, starts with a clean slate in the district.

"We've been struggling defensively all year," Morgan said. "We've been letting in a lot of goals, and it's hurt us. But the last couple of games we've really played well."

"We're all healthy," he added. "It looks like we're coming together. The kids believe in themselves, and that goes a long way."

John Cortese and Dave Presley scored two goals each for the Chiefs. Cortese's first goal came with the game one minute old, and his second tally gave Canton a 2-0 halftime lead.

Eric Miller scored with five minutes gone in the second half, and Presley closed out the scoring with his two goals midway through the second half.

The Chiefs outshot the Falcons 12-5.

W.L. CENTRAL 1, HARRISON 8: Strong goalkeeping was the difference for visiting Walled Lake Central in the W.L.A.A. crossover game Wednesday.

Harrison is 4-7-4 overall and plays host to Oxford at 4 p.m. today in its first-round Class B district game.

Harrison played without senior striker Thierry Berset (wisdom tooth) and senior defender Todd Whittemore (bruised foot), but the Hawks still had more scoring chances than Central, which scored the game's only goal 10 minutes into the second half.

"It was one of the best outings of the year for a goalkeeper," said Harrison coach Glenn Bruehan of the opposing netminder. "He's the one that earned the win for them. We had a lot more shots than them."

Harrison, North end with losses

North Farmington and Farmington Harrison finished their dual-meet seasons Thursday on the losing end of boys cross country scores.

Westland John Glenn defeated the Raiders 23-36 at Westland Central City Park, and Livonia Churchill handed the Hawks a 23-36 setback at Cass Benton Park.

North's Jeff Simpson was the individual runner when a 17:32 effort, but the Raiders, with a depleted roster, didn't have the depth to hold off Glenn.

Marc Harwin was fifth (18:22) and Josh Chinits seventh (18:39), but the Rocks, with eight of the top 11 places, had four runners in front of North's fourth man.

The Raiders were minus two of their top runners: Jason Kocembo, who is sidelined by mononucleosis, and Chris Simpson, who withdrew from the race due to back spasms.

Glenn was paced by the trio of Matt Maybough, Carl Lowe and Jim Zurawski, who were second, third and fourth with 17:20, 17:57 and 18:17 times, respectively.

Harrison had the top two runners in its meet, but the situation was identical to North's with depth being the key factor.

Jeff Barringer won the race in 17:10 and teammate Dave Foss was second at 17:23. Churchill, however, put the next seven runners across to turn the meet in its favor.

Scott Westover, Jacob Babcock, Matt Sweeney, Jeff Grossman and Chad Giles scored for the Chargers, running 17:45, 18:47, 19:02, 19:05 and 19:11 times, respectively.

Raiders fall in finale

Lisa Rives breezed to victory Thursday but was unable to carry North Farmington by herself.

The Raiders suffered a 24-32 cross country defeat in the final girls' dual meet at Cass Benton Park. Farmington Harrison experienced the same fate, losing to Livonia Churchill on the same course Thursday, 23-35.

Rives was more than a minute ahead of the next closest runner, Yvonne Waddell of Glenn, when she finished the race in 19:04. Waddell ran 21:05.

North placed Angie Martin (fifth), Lisa Alpiner (seventh) and Sonia Singh (eighth) among the top 10, but Dallas Amburgey gave the Rockets the victory when she finished ninth as Glenn's No. 5 runner.

Martin ran 23:03, Alpiner 23:13 and Singh 23:20. The Raiders conclude with a 1-4 record in the Lakes Division and 5-4 overall mark.

Tracy Delbussio and Jeannie Klotzer were second and third for the Harrison girls, respectively; however, the Chargers had six runners in the top eight.

Amy Middleton paced Churchill with a first-place finish and time of 22:01. Delbussio was clocked at 22:41 and Klotzer 22:50.

Alyssa Imami was ninth for the Hawks (24:36), Maria Chalagianis 10th (25:16) and Joann Hannawa (25:17).

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Falcons win

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ry year," Baker added. "They don't like hills as much as us, and we have a definite advantage there."

"They know their course real well — where they have to go and what kinds of hills they have to run."

Cass Benton will be the site of the Western Lakes Activities Association meet at 4 p.m. Wednesday. The meet was rescheduled from Tuesday.

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