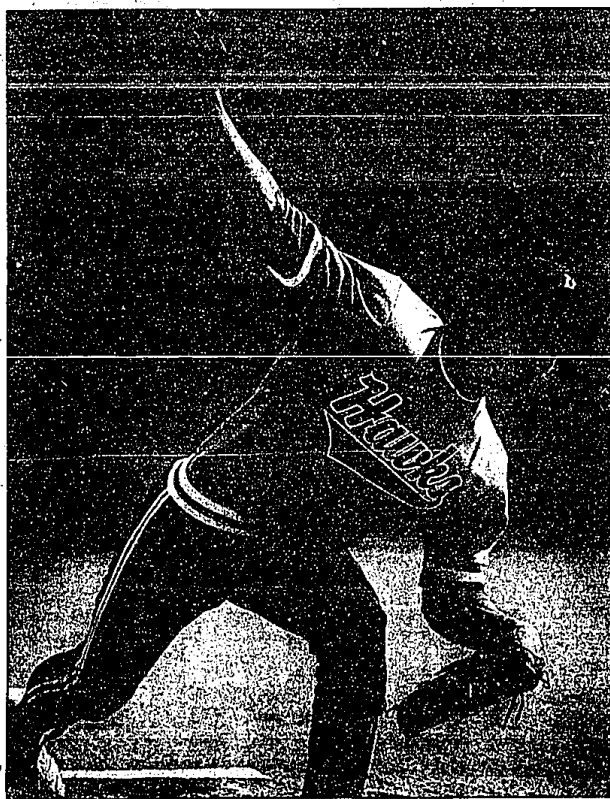


Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312

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Glenn halts Hawks

Farmington Hills Harrison had won six straight baseball games without a loss before running up against Westland John Glenn, which swept a Monday twinbill 8-2

and 6-3. Senior pitcher Craig Murray (above) was a major reason behind Harrison's fast start, but he suffered the loss in the first game. See story on Page 2D.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Farmington battles No. 1 team to draw

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

At the conclusion of Monday's soccer game, referee Ron Montroy asked Plymouth Salem coach Ken Johnson if he wanted round goalposts at Centennial Educational Park next season.

That was no doubt a tempting thought after the Rocks hit the existing square posts five times and settled for a 1-1 draw with Farmington. Johnson and the Salem girls had to wonder what might have been as the Lakes Division showdown ended in a no decision.

"It's one of those things," Johnson said. "It could have been 5-1, and here we're fighting for our life. But if it had been 5-1, it wouldn't have been indicative of how well Farmington played."

"It was a good tie," he added. "We could really have been unlucky and had it go the other way. We could have lost, and a loss would have been fatal to our chances in the division."

While nothing was gained, neither team was hurt by the result, although the Rocks will have the edge in the event a tiebreaker is needed.

ASSUMING BOTH defeat Livonia Stevenson in upcoming games and tie for first place, total conference points will decide the division winner. It was the second straight tie for the Falcons, who battled Livonia Franklin to a 0-0 stalemate last Friday. Salem had defeated the Patriots 8-0.

"It's a little easier to accept this (tie), but I can't take anything away

soccer

from Franklin," Cole said. "Franklin played hard. All you can do is take it as a success and use that in your next game."

The tie probably won't affect Salem's No. 1 ranking in Class A, and No. 4 Farmington will probably gain from it. The Rocks are 7-0-1 overall, the Falcons 7-0-2.

Johnson thought the Rocks should have been ahead 3-0 at halftime, but it was a 1-0 lead instead after Sara Hayes scored at the 18-minute mark.

Coincidentally, both teams scored on the same kind of play and from the same spot on the field. Hayes and Farmington's Amy Westerkamp lofted high, arcing shots from 20 yards on the right side.

Both shots caught the opposing goalie a bit too far out of the net and bounced into the left pocket of the goal.

"THOSE ARE deadly for the keeper," Johnson said, "because it comes in high and goes over the shoulder. If the keeper is watching it come in and it's kind of high, it's easy to misjudge."

Senior midfielder Jill Estey bounced three of the five shots off the Farmington goal, Missy Smith and Michelle Minton one each. Furthermore, Farmington's goal came just seconds after a play in which Smith hit the sidelpost and Estey

caught the top bar with the rebound.

With 8:26 left in the half, Westerkamp gave the Falcons cause to celebrate after scoring only the second goal allowed by Salem's freshman goalkeeper, Jennifer Emmett.

"I was shooting; it was intentional," assured Westerkamp. "I thought it was going over the net at first. Amy Trunk put it off to the side; she gave me a square pass."

"It was a good shot, a pretty shot, and I don't think the keeper had a chance on it," Cole said. "A team always has to be ready. I tell my girls they have to be ready for the unexpected."

The tying goal gave the Falcons new life. The added inspiration caused them to press the attack for the next several minutes and kept Salem on the defensive.

"KEN'S TEAM hit the post quite a bit, and that gave us momentum," Cole said. "It's like hockey; the other team gets frustrated, and we tried to use that to our advantage."

The Rocks, however, were successful at shutting down Farmington's high-scoring Carrie Maier and Trunk. The Falcons penetrated the corners of Salem's defense several times, but the ball was too far ahead of Maier and Trunk, who had to chase the ball and had too sharp an angle to attempt a solid shot. They did well to make a centering pass before the ball went out of bounds.

"You can't fly into (Maier) because she's so tricky," Johnson said. "We backed off a little bit and forced her to make the pass. If you fly in, she'll beat you and keep going to the goal."

John Glenn has edge in Observerland meet

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

If Richard Gordon had his druthers, he'd make sure Saturday's Observerland Relays weren't decided until the day's final event — the 1,600-meter relay.

For personal reasons, "I don't think anyone will run away with it," said Gordon, the Westland John Glenn boys track coach. "I think it will come down to the mile relay (1,600). I'm hoping it will, because I've got a good mile relay."

Glenn and Wayne Memorial each have recorded 3:25.0 in the 1,600 relay, and that's the best time by far in Observerland.

But Glenn is the odds-on favorite to win the Observerland Relays at Livonia Churchill, largely because defending champion Wayne will be missing a number of performers to the prom weekend.

WAYNE (5-0 in duals) cloistered Glenn 84-44 last month in a dual meet, but Wayne coach Joe Grasley isn't as confident about this next encounter. The Wayne prom is Friday night, and Saturday, several standouts, including Shayler Barnes, Wendell Smith, Jason Hodge, Larry Ryles and Demetrick Welch will be at Cedar Point for the day-after prom festivities.

Grasley expects to be riding his own emotional roller coaster Saturday at Churchill.

"We'll still be highly competitive," Grasley said. "We're going to give it our best shot. One of our pluses is we have depth. But John Glenn would be the team to beat considering we're not at full strength."

Carl Lowe, Steve Wiscley, Ferlin Whitlow and David Ryan will anchor Glenn's hopes in the 1,600 relay, but that isn't all Gordon has going for him. Sprinter Andrew Dobbins, high jumper Greg Anderson and distance

track

OBSERVERLAND RELAYS

• What: The 10th annual Observerland Boys Track Relays.

• Where: Livonia Churchill High School.

• When: Saturday, May 6.

• Order of events: The field events (shot put, discus, long jump, high jump and pole vault) begin at 3:30 p.m., followed by the running preliminaries (150-meter hurdles and 100 dash) at 6:30 p.m., and the finals at 7 p.m. (800 relay, 110 hurdles, distance medley, 600 relay, open 1,600 run, 3,200 relay, open 100 dash, sprint medley, shuttle hurdle, 400 and 1,600 relays).

• Schools entered: Livonia Churchill, Stevenson and Franklin; Redford Catholic Central; Bishop Duggan; Redford Union; Garden City; Westland John Glenn; Wayne Memorial; Plymouth Canton; Salem and Chrysler; Farmington, North Farmington and Farmington Hills; Northville and Southland-Lathrup.

• Admission: \$2 at the gate.

runners Chris Gumke and Randy Seach also will figure in the scoring.

Wayne ran away from the field with 104 points last spring, but Gordon said "anyone who reaches 80 this year has a chance to win it."

"WE'LL BE in the top four, but (Redford) Catholic Central and Plymouth Salem has a good shot and I still don't count out Wayne," Gordon said. "They have a lot of individual guys. And I think there's a sleeper team here and that's Churchill."

The Chargers are led by Jason Belaire, one of the area's top high jumpers and the top high hurdles performer, but middle-distance sprinter Jeff Zawislak pulled a hamstring last week and won't be available.

Churchill was third last year and has won the meet several times under coach Fred Price.

"We won't have him (Zawislak) but we hope to scratch and kick around and get our points," Price said. "Jason's got a good shot at the high hurdles and we have a good

chance in the discus relay (where Jeff Bristow has thrown 130-0)."

CC, which finished in a tie last year for 10th place with Farmington, has a far better chance to contend this time. The Shamrocks are deep in the distance events, led by Mike Sheridan, who has Observerland's best times in the 800, 1,600 and 3,200 events.

CC also has distance performer Chris Antkowiak, second to Sheridan in the 3,200 run, and sprinter Dave Owens, owner of Observerland's best 100-meter time (10.9).

BUT COACH Kevin Kavanagh also said he has a "few sprinters nipped up," though he won't say who they are.

"We may not be quite at full strength," Kavanagh said. "And the problem we'll have is our field relays are suspect and we don't have depth to match Glenn, Churchill, and Wayne. We saw Glenn at the Elk Relays and they've got a lot of speed — and Wayne blew them away, so it will be a strong field."

Plymouth Salem, the '87 Observerland Relays winner, stumbled to fourth last year, but is expected to contend.

Salem beat Churchill in a dual meet earlier this year, and has hurdler and long jumper Roger Parry. Also competing will be versatile distance man Scott Stryker, who "is going to have a busy night," predicted coach Gary Balconi.

"I think we're getting better every week," said Balconi, whose team is 2-1. "Competition at this meet is as good or better than ever before. We hope to do well on the track so when all is over and added up we'll be in the hunt."

Redford Union, a fifth-place finisher last year, could be another sleeper, behind pole vaulter Chris Woodbeck, discus thrower Eric Sheppard and long jumper Steve Nowak, three of Observerland's best performers in those events.

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