

## Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312



(F)10

# Kiel leads Falcons to revenge victory

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

It was a day where Plymouth Canton (boys) and Farmington (girls) ruled the trails of Cass Benton Park.

But not to be undone at the Bedford Union cross country invitational were some outstanding individual efforts on a cool, crisp autumn Tuesday afternoon.

Both Schoolcraft College Invitational team champions were victorious in the BU meet.

On the boys side, Canton (63 points), placing five in the top 20, outlegged Salem (79), Dearborn (96) and Walled Lake Western (101).

On the girls side, Farmington avenged a loss last week to Dearborn Edsel Ford, taking the girls meet with 79 points. The Thunderbirds settled for second with 89, while Canton (120) and Redford Union (123) finished third and fourth, respectively.

One of the most intriguing races of the day occurred when Farmington junior Ben Goba, who has lost only one race all season, held off stiff challenges from Salem's Brendon Masterson and Canton's Brian Beach.

Goba's time was an impressive 16:26.55 over the hilly 5,000-meter course. Masterson was clocked in 16:30.06, while Beach raced home in 16:31.87.

"I HEARD THEM (Masterson and Beach) right behind me," said Goba. "On the hills I tried to pick it up and lose them."

"I knew Brendon was going to be there because he told me before the race he was going to try and stick with me."

"I felt pretty good. I've had a sore ankle, but I felt pretty good overall," Masterson, who was sixth last

## cross country

month at Schoolcraft, beat his previous best time at the Cass Benton course by 20 seconds.

"The first race (at Schoolcraft) he (Goba) beat me pretty good," said the Salem senior. "But I feel I'm slowly catching up. One of these days I'll hopefully beat him, but he (Goba) keeps a rock-solid pace. He's good everywhere on the course."

Beach, a top 10 runner all season, shattered the Canton school record (at Cass Benton) by 27 seconds.

"I never thought I could run with him (Goba), because I've always been quite a bit behind," said the Canton senior. "I really tried, but he (Goba) had a faster kick. He's a hard guy to take."

"When he went up on the hills he was strong. He can handle the hills better than anyone."

CANTON'S DEPTH again told the story.

Mike Ream finished 11th, Matt Hall, 15th; Jason Napolitano, 16th; and Matt Boland, 18th.

"Everybody was happy with the way they ran," Beach said. "It was a nice day. I just tried to do well for the team because we're undefeated."

Salem had two others in the top 20: John Thomas was ninth and Dave Hamway took 14th.

"The whole team is getting better and better every meet," said Masterson.

Meanwhile, Farmington had only one thing on its mind in the girls race — beat Edsel Ford.

Jennifer Kiel did her part again, finishing first in 19:20.87, while trying to shake a cold and North Farmington's Lisa Rives (19:22.42) and Walled Lake Western freshman Jennifer Kay (19:30.32).

"Today I tried to get my mind off my cold and run the best I could," said Kiel, who was also the Schoolcraft champ. "The wind hit me hard the first mile-and-a-half. I didn't feel great, but it was good conditions for the team and I'm happy for them because Edsel beat us pretty good at the Shrine Invitational."

ROUNDING OUT the Farmington contingent was Jennifer Derwinski (11th), Allison Davis (11th), Margaret Martin (16th) and Cheryl Casareo (27th).

Rives, meanwhile, has been shadowing Kiel most of the season.

"We fell into a pace, but we were battling all the way," said the North senior. "I think both of us were giving everything we had. I had one Jennifer (Kiel) in front of me and another Jennifer (Kay) behind me. Once in awhile I heard somebody call 'Lisa' in between the 'Jennifer's'."

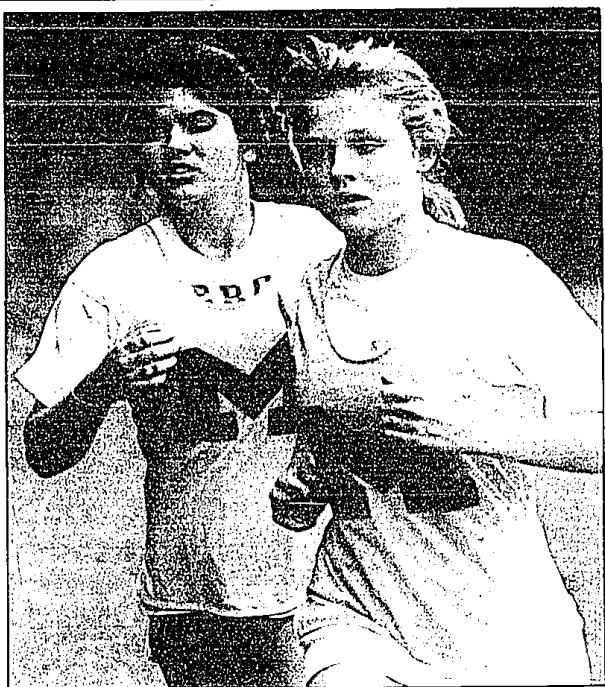
Rives ran the race at a slight disadvantage when she brought two different pair of spikes (shoes).

"I ran in my 'flats' and there was no traction," the North runner explained. "I said to myself, 'This is great sliding along the hills. I'm a senior and you're supposed to remember what to bring.'"

"But it was great weather. Usually at Cass it's either rainy or muddy. Today I really got into fall (weather), the colors and everything."

Canton's top finisher was Amy Smith, who took fourth. The Chiefs' Adrienne Garrow took 20th.

See final results on statistical page.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Mercy marches on

Carrie Goebel (left) and Farmington Hills Mercy teammate Nicole Schlueter round a corner on the Cass Benton course Monday when the Marlins defeated Livonia Lady-

wood for their third straight cross country dual meet win without a loss, 17-42. See story on Page 2D.

# New year, old question: How good is Harrison?

WE PICK UP where we left off 10 months ago with the Farmington Hills Harrison football team.

The question is the same as it was at the end of the 1988 season: How good are the Hawks?

After that incredible year Harrison had, people wondered if the Hawks weren't the best team in the state, period. After they destroyed St. Joseph 44-9 in the Silverdome, talk was the best matchup would have been Harrison and Class A champ Traverse City.

Well, people in the know are having that same discussion again this year, and it's no wonder the way the Hawks — once again undefeated (5-0), rated No. 1 in Class B and trashing the opposition — are playing.

A new year and a new team created new concerns, but when Harrison moved the ball and scored as easily as did in beating Saginaw Arthur Hill 34-18 in the season opener that answered every possible question about the '89 ballclub.

True, the Hawks converted a pair of second-half turnovers to make the game look a little more lopsided than it might have been. But beating ARTHUR HILL by more than two touchdowns is darn good however you do it.

So how good is Harrison, which has blown away the competition since then? Here's something to consider: Arthur Hill beat Muskegon, rated the No. 1 team in Class B by one point, 21-20 Friday.

The Harrison coaches were quite concerned about their defense after Shonte Peoples of Arthur Hill rushed for nearly 200 yards, but I wasn't. But then I don't have to worry about that, I'm sure they'd say.

But why not? First of all, it was an entirely new defense with the exception of end Matt Sperry. Peoples is an all-star, and the Hawks might not play another team as good as Arthur Hill.

Livonia Franklin coach Armand Vigna thinks Harrison's defense is as good as any he's seen, and Harrison coach John Herrington says this year's unit has improved as much in five games as any he's had.



Dan O'Meara

## Grid predictions, 4D

also resulted in a certain amount of irony Saturday. The Hawks win by an otherwise lopsided score and completely stifle the opposing offense, and the prevailing thought is Harrison had a bad game.

By Harrison standards during the Mill Coleman era, it probably was. The Hawks have become so good that when Franklin shut down their running game and caused them to struggle a bit offensively that was bigger news than another Harrison rout.

I guess we've come to expect that. Looking ahead to the Class B playoffs — and the Hawks will be there for the ninth time in school history — I have to wonder if Harrison will repeat what it did last year? Or, rather, if there's any Class B team that can stop them from doing so?

What did the Hawks do last year? They literally coasted through the playoffs, beating their four opponents 153-16.

I see St. Joseph and Auburn Hills Avondale, teams Harrison decimated in the playoffs, unbeaten and ranked among the top 10 again. And there's Frankenuith and Grand Rapids West Catholic, both of whom lost to St. Joseph in the playoffs, up there, too.

At an early glance, West Catholic, Cheboygan and East Grand Rapids are probably the ones most capable of giving Harrison a game based on the past performance of those teams.

St. Joseph graduated many of the huge linemen from last year's team, but quarterback Ebon Sanders, who parallels Coleman's ability in many ways, is back as is 6-foot-7, 240-pound tackle Colin Cronin.

Returning to our original question, I recall seeing Mill Coleman, Dale Katz, Bryan Wauldron and a number

of other Harrison football players at the annual Boys Bowl game a year ago.

They were there to see Class A and Catholic League heavyweights Catholic Central and Brother Rice, and I'm sure they were wondering how they matched up with the those two.

I'll be looking for Mill and his teammates in the crowd at Pontiac Wisner Stadium again Sunday, but the difference this year is this:

Whereas at that time a year ago I wasn't sure the Hawks could hang with either of those teams, I now believe, considering the way last season ended and from what we've seen this fall, Harrison would not only hold its own but possibly have its way with those teams, too.

I said last December the Hawks would have another solid team. The only question was how good? Half way through the '89 season, we have a good idea, but we'll have to wait until November for the complete answer.

NORTH FARMINGTON has labored in the shadow of Harrison in recent years, but the Raiders also have another fine team and will be in the spotlight Friday night.

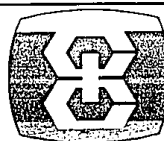
North visits Plymouth Salem for a key Lakes Division game, and the Raiders can balance the scales in the wake of their 9-9 loss to No. 10-rated Westland John Glenn three weeks ago.

If the Raiders win, they would have to root for Salem to beat Glenn next week and force a tri-championship situation as happened two years ago with North, Glenn and Livonia Stevenson.

A post-season berth will be at stake, also. Despite losing to Glenn last year, the Raiders would have qualified for the Class A playoffs if not for a loss to Franklin in the eighth game.

Both teams play good defense, but it could be more important for North since Salem has more experience and scoring potential on offense.

Stevenson coach Jack Reardon was impressed by North's aggressiveness on defense Saturday. North has always lived with defense, and Friday that will be its lifeline.



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