



Mercy's Heather Sullivan takes the baton from Carrie Walton to begin the third leg of the 3200-meter relay in the Catholic League championships Tuesday. Mercy won the event and the meet.

Marlins coast to track victory

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Farmington Hills Mercy didn't have to wait through a post-meet recount Saturday to learn it had won its second regional track championship in three years.

The Marlins were awarded the first-place trophy at Southfield in 1988 but only after a lengthy delay following the discovery of a scoring mistake and the retaliation of the team points.

Mercy made sure there was no repeat of that muddled affair this year. The Marlins were runaway winners in the Novi regional, winning by 44½ points over Detroit Henry Ford.

Relying on superior depth to supplement two first places, Mercy accumulated 106½ points, Ford 62½, Farmington 51½ and North Farmington 41½.

"I had scored the meet on paper based on the times that were submitted," Mercy coach Gary Servais said, "and I thought it would be a lot closer with Henry Ford."

"BUT THE KIDS WORKED HARD ALL YEAR AND IT SHOWED. Our team has a lot of depth. We got a lot of production out of some freshmen, and the seniors came through."

Jeanette Turner was a regional champ in the discus, winning with a school-record toss of 119-3, which broke the record she set last year of 117-8. She also was fifth in the shot put (31-0).

Mercy won the 3200-meter relay in which Lauren Hood, Kathleen Gerigk, Carrie Walton and Kathy Cook were half a second off the school record at 9:53.8.

Gail Murie, Hood and Heather Noll also qualified for the Class A meet on Saturday, June 2, in Midland with second-place finishes, and the Marlins will send two other relays to the state competition.

Murie will go in the high jump (4-10), Hood the 800 run (2:23.3) and Noll the 3200 run (11:47).

Kim Cook, Heather Sullivan, Nicole Pryor and Kathy Cook in the 800 relay (1:49.2) and Sullivan, Dawn DiPonio, Kathy Cook and Hood in the 1600 relay (4:12.7) were regional runners-up.

"I KEPT telling the kids 'Paper doesn't run; people do,'" Servais said. "I said 'Every place and point counts.' Some were running several events and had to focus and concentrate on each one. After a good performance in one, they couldn't afford to let the others go."

Sullivan was third in the 800 run (2:31.7) and Noll third in the 1600 (5:26.4). Laure DeMatteis was third in the shot put (32-11½) and fifth in the discus (97-2).

Mercy's 400 relay team of Kim Cook, Kristen Lewis, DiPonio and Kathy Cook captured third place in 32 seconds flat.

The Marlins picked up fourth-place points from DiPonio in the 400 dash (1:02.1), Pryor in the 200 dash (27.2) and Gerigk in the 1600 run (5:35).

The points from DiPonio and Pryor in those events was unexpected, according to Servais, who also was pleasantly surprised by Mercy's showing in the 800 and 400 relays.

"Looking on paper, it didn't look like we'd get a single point out of those events," Servais said. "We got almost 20 points in those events when we didn't count on getting anything."

"THAT WAS a surprise. Everything else we were counting on. Once that came through, I knew we were in good shape, because I knew Henry Ford didn't have anything in the field events."

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Falcons: WLAA champs

Schmid's five-hitter wins title

By Bill Parker
staff writer

Farmington's Chris Schmid couldn't have picked a better time to pitch his first shutout of the season.

With his team hosting Walled Lake Western Monday for the baseball championship of the Western Lakes Activities Association, Schmid had his breaking ball working like a charm, and he used it to blank the Warriors on five hits as the Falcons beat Western 7-0.

"My curve ball was moving better today than any other time out," Schmid said. "My other stuff (pitches) was coming in pretty high early on."

Cool temperatures and a brisk wind didn't seem to bother the senior lefty, who fanned 10 Warriors and improved his record to a 6-0.

"Against North Farmington last Thursday, the weather was worse than today and I pitched 10 innings," Schmid said. "It was like a blessing in disguise because it helped me prepare for today."

ALTHOUGH IT WAS Farmington's first championship in the WLAA — the Falcons last won a league title 12 years ago in the Inter-Lakes League — there was no celebration on the mound after the final out.

"Anytime you can accomplish one of your goals it's a good feeling, but we won't celebrate until after the season," Farmington coach Kevin Kananen said. "It was a great way to finish the regular season, but we start a new season now (the state tournament)."

"This is a veteran team and they understand what needs to be done. You can throw the records out now because anything can happen. We just have to get the job done on each particular day."

The Falcons enter post-season play with an 18-4 record after winning their pre-district qualifier Tuesday. Western's loss was its third in a row after losing a double-header to Walled Lake Central on Saturday and dropped the Warriors to 12-7 overall.



RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

Chris Schmid pitched a five-hit shutout Monday as Farmington won the WLAA baseball knockout performance last week with 10 title 7-0 over Walled Lake Western. Schmid, who boasts a 6-0 record, followed a 14-day as Farmington won the WLAA baseball knockout performance last week with 10 title 7-0 over Walled Lake Western. Schmid, strikeouts.

Prior to the three-game slide, the Warriors had been powered by a balanced offensive attack which resulted in a team batting average of .394. But the offense never materialized against Farmington.

"USUALLY, WHEN you go into a slump, it's one or two players, not five or six," Western coach Ken Connor said. "That's been our story. When we're hitting everyone hits and when we slump everyone slumps."

"But that's not to take anything away from Chris Schmid. He pitched a helluva game. I give him the credit. We lost to a real good ballclub. They're a class act."

Although Connor was disappointed with the loss, he was happy his team made it to the title game — Western's first trip to the finals since the early '80s.

"Our goal early in the season was to break 500 and we made it to the championship game," Connor said. "Making it here and having the opportunity just to play in this game was great. We're still a young team and we learned a lot today."

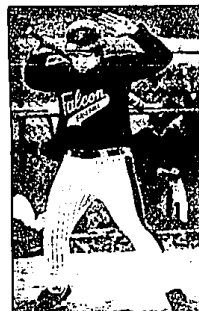
Farmington took the lead with a pair of runs in the bottom of the first inning. They added a run in the third, three in the fifth and one more in the sixth.

P.J. Green opened the Farmington half of the first inning with lead-off single. He stole second, moved to third on an infield error and scored on a fielder's choice single by Kevin Young. One out later, Young scored on a bloop single to center by Dave Wilson.

GREEN LED off the third inning with an error that put him on second. He moved to third on a ground out and scored on a sacrifice fly by Young.

Western pitcher Jason Gross, who limited the Falcons to just three hits through the first four innings, ran into control problems in the fifth.

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RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

Scott Lakatos backs away from an inside pitch.

Hoffman captures regional

North Farmington freshman Seth Hoffman rallied from a second-set deficit Saturday to win the No. 1 singles championship at the Southfield tennis regional.

Hoffman, having won the first set 6-4 over Seth Denawetz of West Bloomfield, was down 5-3 in the second but won the next four games and the match 7-5.

"He really played like a champion," North coach Rick Jones said. "I feel real fortunate he won it. Denawetz is a quality kid and a quality player."

"When he was down 5-3, he had to come back and break Denawetz's serve twice and hold serve twice to get out of the set."

The Raiders were fourth in the 15-team tournament. Birmingham Groves and West Bloomfield were the top teams and will advance to the state tournament June 1-2 in Midland.

HOFFMAN WILL be there, too, competing individually for the chance to become the state's No. 1 high school tennis player.

"There are a lot of really good kids, but we would guess he'd be in the top eight" as far as seeding, Jones said. "I don't know if it's realistic to expect a freshman to go all the way through it, but he has the talent to play well and the ability to beat anybody on any day that he's playing well."

Hoffman, ranked sixth nationally in boys 14, will face some tough opposition, including Grose Pointe South's Jeff Olraide, ranked 10th in

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