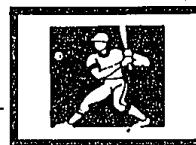


Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312



Thursday, June 14, 1990 O&E

(F)10

Kiel top track athlete

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

JENNIFER KIEL knows what it takes to go the distance. The senior has been leading the pack for most of her career at Farmington High.

Kiel, selected Overland Girls Track Athlete of the Year by the sports staff, has been a fixture for the Falcons' track and cross country squads the past four years.

She capped her brilliant running career recently by finishing second in the 3,200-meter run at the state Class A meet in Midland.

"She's an amazing young lady," said Farmington coach Bruce Brown. "It's been my honor to be associated with her for four years. I have never worked with such a dedicated athlete, boy or girl. Her ability to concentrate is outstanding. She's also an outstanding student and an outstanding human being."

Kiel won the coveted honor over two highly versatile athletes, Lisa Christensen, who led Livonia Stevenson to the Western Lakes Activities Association crown, and Jennifer Harris, Plymouth's Salem's school record breaker.

JOHN GERLACH of Lutheran Westland was named Coach of the Year by the Observer sports staff after his Warriors ran away with the seven-school Michigan Independent Athletic Conference. His team also won the Ann Arbor Greenhills Invitational.



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— Bruce Brown
Farmington track coach

Lutheran Westland, third at the Class C regional, produced Observerland's only girls state champion, Stephanie Locke in the 800 run. The school's 3,200 relay squad, which included Gerlach's daughter Jennifer, finished third.

"We had 23 girls on the team this year and I was really pleased with that," Gerlach said. "We should be very good again next year. We lose three seniors, Ellen Anderson, who was on our 3,200 relay team, will really be missed, but we have a good group of veterans coming back."

Gerlach, a Detroit native, graduated from Concordia Teachers Col-

lege in Seward, Neb. He received his master's degree from Eastern Michigan and taught 18 years at Guardian Lutheran Elementary School in Dearborn before coming to the new Lutheran High Westland, where he teaches art and religion.

Like Kiel, Gerlach is an avid distance runner.

Here is a closer look at this year's All-Area Girls Track Team.

FIELD EVENTS

Maya Lewis, Wayne, shot put. The senior, headed to Northwood Institute on a basketball scholarship, ranked second in the area in both the shot put (37 feet) and discus (122-0).

all-area girls track

Lewis took first in the Wolverine A League in the shot put and was second in the discus at the league and regional. She also ran on the league champion 400-meter relay squad.

Jessann Martin, Stevenson, discus. Martin ranked No. 1 in the area in both the shot put (38-3) and discus (125-5), both school records.

The senior finished third in the state in the discus and was a regional champion in the shot put. She captured both events at the Western Lakes meet.

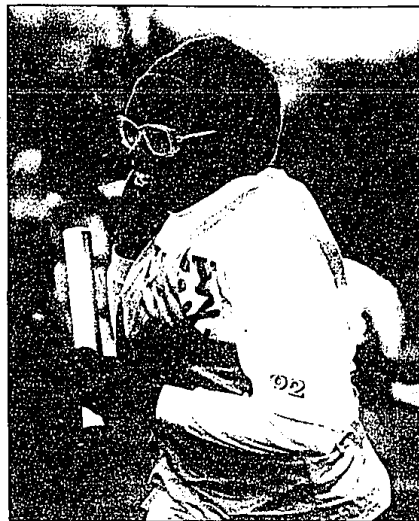
"Jessann's success in the throwing events is the result of four years of work," said Stevenson coach Paul Holmberg. "She worked hard to improve and has steadily done so. She has not fully reached her potential. She could become a great collegiate athlete."

Tracy Livmore, Salem, long jump. Her best leap for No. 1 in the area was a leap of 16-11½. The junior captain jumped over 16-10 four times and took the WLAA meet for the second straight year with a jump of 16-7½.

Livmore was also a member of Salem's WLAA meet champion 400 and 800 relays.

"She combines athletic talent with a mature attitude and the result is a super example for her peers," said Salem coach Randy Borst.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Kathy Cook made the all-area girls track team as a member of Mercy's 3,200-meter relay team. Cook is a sophomore; fellow relay runners Kathleen Gerigk, Carrie Walton and Heather Sullivan are juniors.

Franklin faces Fraser in state semis



QUY WARREN/staff photographer

Jenny Mayle has hurled Livonia Franklin into the state Class A softball tournament semifinals against Fraser, leading the Patriots to an 18-7 overall record.

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

While Joe Epstein scrambles to get scouting report on Fraser, the Livonia Franklin softball coach has definite read on his team.

"I feel the same way as I have all season long," said Epstein. "If we get three runs and play good defense, we feel we can beat any of the three teams up there."

Epstein's Patriots may be the surprise among the final four and the most dangerous.

Franklin (18-7) will face the Ramblers (31-5) in the state Class A semifinals at 10 a.m. Friday at Bailey Park in Battle Creek. The other semifinal, also at 10, pits last year's runner-up, Jackson, against, ranked Waterford Kettering. (The championship game is at 10 a.m. Saturday at Bailey Park.)

Fraser comes to the semifinals riding the arm of 5-foot-5 ace pitcher Jemarie Sabutis, who has hurled 28 scoreless innings during the playoffs, including a 1-0 shutout over Grosse Pointe North and a 9-0 whitewash of previously unbeaten Detroit Pershing at the regional.

"WE CAN'T worry about it, I think we'll hold our own," said the Franklin coach. "But they (Fraser) sound awesome, and with the 28 scoreless innings to boot. Of the four teams we've got to be considered the underdog because the other three teams have been rated all year."

The Patriots are by no means strangers to final four play. They won the Class A crown in 1989 after finishing second behind Mount Clemens L'Anse Creuse North in '85. Franklin reached the regional final last year before losing to Taylor Center. The Patriots spent most of 1990 season playing second fiddle to Overland rivals Plymouth Canton and Garden City.

But the Patriots caught fire at the right time, while Canton and GC were knocked out of the tournament. Franklin made believers out of many last week after whipping through the regional at Wyandotte with wins over Belleville (2-0) and Trenton (8-3).

Junior pitcher Jenny Mayle proved last weekend that she ranks among the best in the state.

SHE CAME within one out of a no-hitter against Belleville and threw a five-hitter to beat Trenton. "She has an insatiable desire to win," said Epstein of his 5-10 ace. "She's been a hard worker, just outstanding for us. And she's willing to try new things, no questions asked."

Epstein calls most of Mayle's pitches, but junior catcher Tracy Parenti determines the location of the ball.

"Most of the year I've called for the changeups and raises," said the Franklin coach. "Basically, Jenny is a control, fastball pitcher. The pitcher calls it and the catcher moves the ball around."

Mayle only walked four in 14 innings last week.

A lot of the credit goes to her bat-

termate, Parenti, one of the team's unsung players.

"Tracy's up all the time, a real gamer," Epstein said. "She's fun in terms of keeping the team going. When the game starts, nobody works harder. She gives you 150 percent."

"She started out with not so strong an arm, but she's worked at it and now she's one of the best in our league (the Western Lakes)."

EPSTEIN does not anticipate any lineup changes for Friday's semifinal game with Fraser.

The batting order will probably be: Dawn Warner, sophomore, second base; Parenti, junior, catcher; Karen Brown, senior, center field; Beth Hare, junior, designated hitter; Amporn Wagner, senior, shortstop; Jenny Mascarello, junior, first base; Mayle, junior, pitcher; Brenda Pier-

son, junior, third base; and Shannon Eberly, senior, left field. Christy McComb, a junior, will play right field, but not bat.

"If we're fortunate to get a couple of runs early, we may substitute defensively," Epstein said. "But we're going with the kids who brought us her."

Epstein expects a little nervousness before the start of Friday's semifinal.

"Last week I never saw so many injuries disappear once the game started," said the Franklin coach. "Once the game got underway, there were no complaints."

And no matter what happens Friday, Epstein won't have any complaints about the 1990 season.

"This can only help us for next season," he said.

softball

'I feel the same way as I have all season long. If we get three runs and play good defense, we feel we can beat any of the three teams.'

— Joe Epstein
Franklin softball coach

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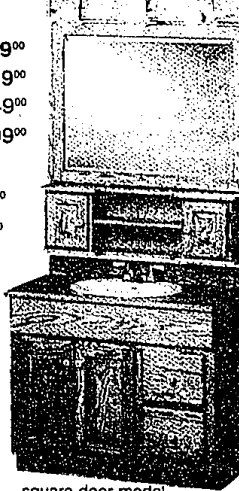
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softball

TOURNAMENT NOTES

The site: Bailey Park (Gonvis complex) is located on M-66 (Capital Avenue, N.E.) in Battle Creek. Coming from Livonia or Westland, go west on I-94, take M-66 (Exit 98) and go north, following M-66 to the park.

Tickets: Tickets are priced at \$4 per person each day for each sport (softball and baseball). Admission is good for all games played in that sport all day. You must purchase separate tickets for baseball and softball.

Hotels sold out: Because of the MHSAA Baseball Softball Finals and the International Hot Air Balloon Festival this weekend, there are no lodging accommodations for spectators available in Battle Creek. Spectators are advised to secure lodging in nearby cities, such as Kalamazoo, Marshall, Albion and Jackson.

Softball pairings (Class A): (All games at Gonvis Complex): 10 a.m. Friday — Livonia Franklin (18-7) vs. Fraser (31-5) at Diamond D; Waterford Kettering (33-3) vs. Jackson (33-9) at Diamond D; Friday — 10 a.m. Saturday, Diamond D (Class D semifinals, 12:30 p.m.; Class B semifinals, 3 p.m.; Class C semifinals, 5:30 p.m.)

1989 Class A results: After 2½ hours and a 17-inning pitching duel between Denise Nickol of Harper Woods and Kelly Forde of Milford Lakeside — the longest in MHSAA championship game history — Regina defeated Lakeland, 5-4, on Christine Burley's RBI single.

Tournament history: Livonia Franklin won the 1988 crown, defeating Waterford Kettering, 1-0, as Tracy Leckie threw a no-hitter after outdueling South Lyon, 2-0, in a 20-inning (two-day) semifinal. Franklin reached the 1985 final before losing to L'Anse Creuse North of Mount Clemens.

Jackson won back-to-back titles in 1987 and '88, and was eliminated in last year's semifinals.

Misc.: Fraser has three players hitting over .500 — Torri Genesee (.515), Nicole Crene (.515) and Cheryl Deaman (.500).