

Sports

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(F11D)

Goba outkicks Crosby at RU

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Dearborn High won the team title and Farmington's Ben Goba was the individual champion Tuesday in the 28th-annual Redford Union Boys Cross Country Invitational held at Cass Benton Park.

Neither win came as a surprise, but there was some suspense.

State-ranked Dearborn compiled 56 points, four less than second-place Walled Lake Western (60). Taking third place was defending champion Plymouth Canton (69), followed by fourth-place Novi (104) and fifth-place Ann Arbor Huron (184). (See related standings.)

"I figured Dearborn, Canton, us and Novi would fight to win it," Walled Lake Western coach Dennis Keeney said. "Dearborn was the favorite, based on what they've done so far."

Goba also was favored to win the individual race, based on what he has done so far, but he ended up having to fight off a stiff challenge from Western's Bill Crosby. Goba hasn't lost yet this year, but Crosby paid no attention to any previous results, staying even with Goba the entire way of the 3.1 mile course.

GOBA TOOK FIRST in a personal best time of 15:53.62, just ahead of Crosby, a junior who crossed the finish line in 15:54.70. Goba, a sen-

ior, showed a lot of respect for Crosby, even after the race had finished.

The race was a fine tune-up for Goba, who is sure to face another challenge Saturday from Birmingham Brother Rice's John Cowan at the Oakland County Meet.

"He scared the heck out of me," said Goba, shortly before accepting his victory plaque. "I've been running against Crosby all season and he's been with me the first mile but then after that he drops back. I just had to outkick him."

Three Western runners finished among the top 15 runners, including sophomore Brandon Keeney, who took 12th place (17:09.75), and Jeff Grosso in 13th place (17:12.10). Keeney was most excited about Crosby's finish.

"He's been trying to run with Goba all year and this time he almost did it," Keeney said. "He's one of the top contenders for the state title, and he's been working hard. That's his goal — to finish real high in the state and qualify for the Kinney National Championship."

CANTON MANAGED TO win the girls title (see related story), but the Chiefs boys team had to settle for third place, which suited coach Jim Hayes just fine. Leading Canton's charge was senior Mike Ream, who recorded his best time in taking sixth place (16:43.58), and



Ben Goba
Farmington star
teammate Jason, Crain, who placed 11th (17:08.14).

A pleasant surprise came from sophomore David Yack, normally the Chiefs sixth or seventh runner, who placed 21st (17:40).

"It was a tremendous improvement and I don't know how he did it," Hayes said. "We're very pleased with third place. We've only lost to real high-quality teams this year."

Despite Goba's winning time, the Falcons didn't benefit much, placing seventh with 208 points. North Farmington, paced by Josh Chinitz (18:14), finished ninth with 240, followed in order by Redford Union (254), Farmington Hills Harrison (279) and Walled Lake Central (328).

Ken Podina led RU with a 14th place individual finish (17:14.70). Westland John Glenn and Garden City brought up the rear, finishing 14th (406) and 15th (414), respectively.

Falcons finish 2nd

Hibbs wins in one-hole playoff

By Jim Toth
staff writer

The conditions weren't bad at the beginning of Monday's Oakland County Golf Championship. But as the day went along, the scene at the Pontiac Country Club began to resemble that of the British Open, where Mother Nature often has as much of a say in the outcome as the golf course itself.

A sunny start quickly turned breezy and damp on the 41 teams competing in the annual event, causing players to scramble and scores to soar.

When it was all over, coach Ed Van Dam's Cranbrook Cranes swooped to an eight-stroke victory over runner-up Farmington. The Cranes four-man contingent of Drew Smith, Ian Lopatin, Brian Littleton and Tony Cannarsa finished with a 321 total, seven strokes ahead of the Falcons.

Brother Rice placed third with 330, Country Day was fourth with 331 and Bloomfield Hills Andover rounded out the top five with 341. Birmingham Groves (346), Novi (346), Troy Athens (349) and Rochester (350) claimed the next five positions.



DAVE DEAN/staff photographer

Jason Buha, a Farmington High sophomore, reacts Monday after missing a birdie putt on the par-3 17th hole in the Oakland County Meet at Pontiac Country Club. Buha finished with a 5-over par 77, one shot off the lead for the runner-up Falcons.

who shot 39-37, recorded three birdies.

"THE COURSE was windy, cold and it rained for five or six holes, but he (Hibbs) did a super job under the conditions," Miner said. "Pound for pound Hibbs (5-4, 132 pounds) hits the ball as well as anybody. He has learned to swing with every ounce he has. He is a very small person, but plays a whole of a game."

Hibbs' teammate, Jason Buha, finished tied with Pontiac Northern's Marcus Myers for 17th place with 77. Chris Schneider of Walled Lake Western and Craig Corton of Bloom-

field Hills Andover each shot 79 to tie for seventh place and George Lukowski of Bloomfield Hills Lahser and Harry Tunison of Country Day shot 80 apiece to share ninth place.

FARMINGTON STRUGGLED Tuesday, losing its first dual meet, 208-196, to Northville at San Marino Golf Club. Chris Lammson and Mike Fischer led the non-conference win for Northville, each carding 37s.

Chris Zbanek had a 39 to lead Farmington, now 6-1 overall. Peter True scored 40, while Adam Hibbs and Brian Link each contributed scores of 41.

Canton girls victors

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Plymouth Canton girls cross country coach George Przygodski asks his runners to ignore each other during a race.

"We have a saying," he said. "No one's friends when we're racing. Competition is very important."

The Chiefs pushed each other the whole way Tuesday and it showed as they won the 9th-annual Redford Union Girls Cross Country Invitational at Cass Benton Park. Canton won the 15-team invitational with 80 points, five ahead of second-place Redford Union. Dearborn Edsel Ford took third place (103), followed in fourth by Trenton (142) and fifth-place Walled Lake Western (150). (See related standings.)

Western's Jennifer Ray won the individual title as expected in recording a personal best time of 19 minutes, 21.32 seconds. Wendy Pross (20:06.25) placed third for the Warriors, but the Chiefs depth was pivotal.

AMY SMITH LED Canton with a seventh-place finish (20:48.30) and teammate Heather Meyer (usually the Chiefs No. 3 runner) turned in a

Cross country

'I knew we were in a good pack. The kids came by fast at the Mile.'

— George Przygodski
Canton coach

continued her unbeaten streak by outracing the rest of the field. Ray was clocked at about 5:45 for the first mile, which she said is about 20 seconds faster than her usual pace.

"I did what I wanted to do — beat the champion's time from last year's RU Invitational," Ray said. "It was nice, a little windy, but other than that a good day to run. I started out fast and for the first quarter mile I was breathing hard, but after that, when I got on the hills I was fine. I like the hills because we run on them a lot on our home course (Gilbert Willis)."

The team results might have changed considerably had RU's top runner Liza Mockeridge been healthy. Trying to compete despite a foot injury, Mockeridge finished 35th overall and sixth among RU runners. RU was led by eighth-place Tracy James (20:53.21), 13th-place Michelle Daraban (21:16.52) and 15th-place Jennifer Sturdewant (21:26.84). No doubt a typical time from Mockeridge could have put RU over the top.

"WE DID NOT do well, our No. 1

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13th place showing 21:12.74). Canton's Kim Gudeth was 16th (21:25), and teammates Lana Borodtch and Anne Dibble finished in 19th and 26th, respectively.

"We were aiming for this meet to do well," Przygodski said. "It's one of our milestones we set through the season and we're right on course for where we want to be. I knew we were in a good pack. The kids came by fast at the mile."

None were faster than Ray, who

Spartans beat North, not without a struggle, 1-0

Playing nothing like a team with a woeful record, North Farmington gave Livonia Stevenson a scare Monday in a Western Lakes Activities Association Lakes Division soccer match.

Dave Nordwall, a new addition to the Stevenson attack, broke a scoreless tie with about two minutes left when he headed a direct free kick behind North goalkeeper Bill Chwalk. Nordwall, a transfer student from the east coast, recently joined the Spartans lineup after recovering from an injury.

The loss dropped North to 1-7 overall, but it didn't dampen the spirits of first-year coach Kris Galczyk.

"I would say Stevenson slightly controlled the game, but we'd stop them at midfield most of the time," Galczyk said. "Stevenson couldn't get any scoring position and of course I'm proud of them. We stayed with one of the best teams in Michigan. They did an excellent job."

Galczyk praised the play of sweeper Ed Kaise, who left the game with an ankle injury in the first half, and midfielder Justin Hindman and stopper Jared Lawrence.

soccer

Stevenson coach Wally Barrett acknowledged that the Raiders kept the game close, but he wasn't worried about the outcome.

"For 78 minutes, North packed the box brilliantly, but the end result (for the Raiders) was the same — a loss," Barrett said.

SALEM 4, FARMINGTON 0: Andy Cosenza tallied a goal and three assists, while goalkeeper Derek Olson posted his ninth shutout of the season, leading host Plymouth Salem, the state's No. 5-ranked team in Class A, to a shutout victory over Farmington.

Salem, now 12-1 overall, scored three first-half goals to taken command. Joe Tippman added a goal and an assist, while Tom Baker and John Truskowski each scored a goal.

In a battle of state-ranked teams on Saturday, host Salem romped to a 5-2 triumph over No. 8 Troy Athens.

the defending state Class A champs. The Rocks got out of the gate quickly, scoring in the seventh, 13th and 15th minute of play.

Cosenza had a goal and two assists. Truskowski, Jake Baker, Joe Nunez and Tom Baker scored the other Salem goals.

Chris LaJoy added three assists. Athens, which fell out of the rankings this week, is 8-3-1 overall.

CANTON 2, NORTHVILLE 1: Plymouth Canton rallied Monday to beat host Northville, 2-1, in a Western Division game. The Chiefs trailed 1-0 at halftime but scored both their goals in the second half to improve to 7-6 overall and 3-1 in the Western Division. Northville fell to 2-1-1 in the division.

"Northville was playing well — tough — in front of the hometown fans," Canton coach Don Smith said. "They were fired up, but we came back with the second-half goals and went away happy."

Sophomore halfback Mike Hayes started the comeback 10 minutes into the second half when he fired a

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