

Sports

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North nips Mercy to win county meet

Farmington Hills is developing a reputation as the hotbed of Oakland County high schools.

North Farmington and Farmington Hills Mercy supported that claim Saturday by finishing one-two in the annual county championships at Oakland University.

In a reversal of last year's result, the Raiders edged Mercy by 1/4 points, 185 to 183 1/2. The Marlins won the title last year by 1/4 points over North.

The two schools are annually among the top 10 in the state competition and are expected to vie again this year for top honors.

"Oakland County has some of the strongest swim teams in the state year in and year out," North coach Patrick Dutille said, "so it's a real treat to be able to win that meet. There are a lot of good swimmers in the county, and it's a tough feat to win the meet."

NORTH AND Mercy chased each other from the opening relay. The Marlins jumped ahead with a season-best and state-cut time of 1:54.1 in the 200-yard medley relay swim by Jenny McCombs, Katie Knipper, Linda Goldstein and Erica Smith — all underclassmen.

"We got four good, midseason splits from those girls," Mercy coach Terry Eudy-Teeters said. "And the

swimming

race had a little spark as Jenny did the first 15 yards of the backstroke leg underwater. It's the same start patented by Olympic swimmer and world record holder David Berkoff."

North countered in the next two events, the 200 freestyle and 200 individual medley, with firsts by junior Karrie Kranz (1:59.66) and senior Kerry Doran (2:13.55), who has won the IM four straight years at the county meet. She also was first in the 500 freestyle at 5:14.5.

Mercy's Smith, Polly Tenuta and Michelle McCaffrey placed fifth, seventh and 11th for the Marlins in the 200 freestyle.

Following the diving and the butterfly, North was ahead 84-71 1/2, with each team having three swimmers in the next event, the 100 freestyle.

Kranz swam under the 58.29 state cut with a 53.42 clocking for fourth place, but Mercy's Smith and Andrea Hoefflein placed sixth and eighth to keep the meet close.

DORAN PICKED up her second win in the 500 freestyle, finishing 10 seconds ahead of her nearest competitor. Tenuta and McCaffrey placed for Mercy as Tenuta just

missed the state cut by three seconds with her season-best time of 5:28.0.

The Marlins cut the lead to 10 points by placing fifth to North's eighth in the new event, the 200 freestyle relay. Mercy's Knipper, Hoefflein, Tenuta and McCaffrey went 1:45.91 — a state cut — and Richardson, Worthen, Shannon O'Brien and Jenny Wagner swam 1:48.4 for North.

The backstroke was a strong event for the Marlins as Linda Goldstein took second place with a time of 1:02.53 and McCombs seventh. North didn't place and the Marlins regained a 10-point lead with two events to go.

The breast stroke followed and neither team yielded as each of their three swimmers placed in the top 12.

Honors went to Mercy's Knipper whose 1:10.34 was a season best and good for second place. Hoefflein and Anna Huellmantel also scored for Mercy. But the Raiders trimmed Mercy's lead to half a point with Anna Palmer placing third (1:11.4), Karrie Worthen fourth (1:12.67) and freshman Sherri Richardson seventh (1:14.18).

"Kranz, Palmer, Doran and Worthen were ones we were counting on to do well and they came through," Dutille said. "But the person who came through and did better

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SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Falcons soar

Becky Washnock of Farmington (35) protects the basketball during Tuesday's game with crosstown opponent Harrison. Wash-

nock scored eight points as the Falcons defeated the Hawks 55-40. See story on Page 2D.

North grad controversial author

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Bob Kourtakis remembers the first column he wrote as sports editor of North Farmington's student newspaper, The Northern Star.

"I wrote a column that said, 'Since there's a wrestling team at North, we should have a hockey team as well,'" said Kourtakis, a 1994 North graduate. "The wrestlers wanted to get me for a couple months. I learned that not everyone is going to like what you write. But as long as you do it honestly and as carefully as possible, then it's credible."

Perhaps that explains why he co-authored *Behind the Green Curtain, The Sacrifices of Ethics and Academics in Michigan State Football's Rise to National Prominence*. Kourtakis, a 1988 MSU graduate, and Stu Whitney, who graduated in '89 from MSU, completed the book in June. It is being sold on news stands for \$14.95 throughout the state.

ALUMNI, FANS and MSU's athletic department aren't thrilled by the book, which contains eight chapters and 190 pages, and examines MSU football on the field and off. The book, published by Masters Press of Grand Rapids, covers many topics, including:

- Head coach George Perles' hypocrisy;
- MSU's academic facade, including intimidation of professors by the Spartans' coaching staff;
- the student-athlete struggle;
- steroid abuse; and
- rampant lawlessness among the players.

All of which means that today, nearly eight years after he wrote that first column at The Northern Star, there's another segment of the

football

population angry with Kourtakis.

Of course, those complaining about the book don't pay enough attention to the epilogue, which offers solutions to the problems mentioned in previous chapters.

"These people have thin skin," said Kourtakis, who covered MSU football from 1985-88 for The State News (MSU's student newspaper) and the Lansing State Journal. "The fan and coaching staff's reaction has been absolutely ridiculous. They don't care about the book or its findings, all they care about is that it makes MSU look bad — it ruins their tailgate parties and gin and tonics. College athletics is more than wins and losses, it's about nurturing and educating 100 athletes.

"All we were trying to do is write a book about how college sports should be. If we wanted to hurt MSU, we would have interviewed former athletes who were recruited by State and given money to go there."

KOURTAKIS, WHO works in Lansing at a public relations firm, said he avoids the East Lansing campus for fear of retaliation.

"I don't walk around East Lansing anymore, and I'm dead serious," he said. "My wife and I don't go to bars and restaurants anymore in East Lansing. We live in Okemos and work in Lansing. It's sad it has to come down to that, but there's a lot of sports fanatics out there. . . It's really gotten out of hand, all they want to see is the team

beat Michigan and stay off probation."

The book has drawn rave reviews from Rick Telander, Sports Illustrated's senior writer. Telander authored another book, *The Hundred Yard Lie*, which also detailed problems with big-time college football programs.

The 24-year-old Kourtakis said he decided to write the book last October, while working as assistant sports editor for the Port Huron Times Herald.

Kourtakis, who was honored for writing the Best Sports Story in Gannett newspapers in 1989, resigned last January from the Times Herald to devote all his time to the book.

Whitney, who also covered MSU football for the State News and Lansing State Journal, currently works as a sports writer with the Argus Leader, in Sioux Falls, S.D.

"I came up with the idea after observation and reflection of what happened at State," Kourtakis said. "When I started covering the team I was 19 and in awe of covering a 'pro' team. But when I got older, I started realizing the priorities are all out of whack. I called Stu to see if he felt the same way, and he did."

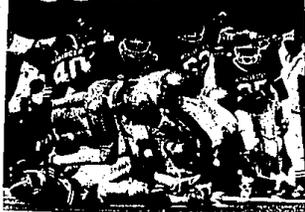
KOURTAKIS IS NOT worried about possible legal action from MSU and former players, because he said he has at least two sources for each piece of testimony.

"We have notes that would stand up knee high," he said.

Kourtakis has practiced fair journalism ever since his days at The Northern Star, according to Jerry Maxwell, North Farmington's baseball coach from '76-'84.

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BEHIND THE GREEN CURTAIN



The Sacrifices of Ethics and Academics in Michigan State Football's Rise to National Prominence

BY BOB KOURTAKIS AND STU WHITNEY

Bad weather, opponents can't derail Farmington

By Bill Parker
staff writer

It was rainy, windy and cold Tuesday on the par-72 course at Huron Meadows in Brighton. But despite the seemingly unbearable conditions, the Western Lakes Activities Association golf tournament was played in its entirety with Farmington — Observerland's top-ranked team — splashing to victory.

"The big story and the surprise of the day is that we played it!" explained tournament director Gerry Chapple, the Walled Lake Central coach. "I know it's hard to believe, but we played it and got it finished. It rained from the time we teed off until the time we finished, but the course remained playable."

Farmington, which has been ranked among the top 10 Class A teams in the state throughout the year, lived up to its billing by winning the tournament with 396 points. Livonia Churchill placed second with 400 and Northville finished third with 419.

Plymouth Salem, Plymouth Canton, Livonia Stevenson and North Farmington tied for fourth with 430 points each.



"We don't break a tie with the sixth man unless it really makes a difference: like for first or second place," explained Chapple. "Since the tie was for fourth, we didn't break it."

Rounding out the rest of the pack was Walled Lake Western with 440 points, Westland John Glenn with 444, Walled Lake Central with 447, Livonia Franklin with 510 and Farmington Harrison with 530.

FARMINGTON'S VICTORY capped an exciting week for first-year head coach Jim Miner. Last Thursday, the Falcons won the city championship and Tuesday's victory at the league tourney wrapped up the WLAAs championship outright. Entering the tournament, Farmington and Stevenson were tied for the league lead with identical 5-1 dual meet records.

"For a first year coach it's a nice way to come in," admitted Miner.

"It's been a team effort all year. At some point in time each member of this team has come through for us."

The top five finishers at the meet earned All-WLAA honors while the next 10 earned All-Conference honors.

Jason Buha and Adam Hibbs — the Oakland County tournament medalist — paced the Falcons, earning All-WLAA honors by finishing second (73) and third (75) respectively.

"For the most part, Jason and Adam have been shooting low 70s at every tournament we've been in," explained Miner. "The rest of the guys battle each other to death for the other spots."

Chris Zbanek picked up a ninth-place finish with an 81 and Peter True tied for 12th with 83, but dropped to 16th after an eight-man, three-hole playoff.

CHURCHILL SENIOR Bill Durham earned medalist honors with an outstanding one-under 71.

"Bill putted very well and kept the ball in the short grass," explained Churchill coach Ken Timmons. "He

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