

Area team includes Farmington quartet

By **STEVE KOWALSKI**
STAFF WRITER

Observant teams failed to make a run at a state girls cross country championship, but several outstanding individuals made the 1992 season one to remember. Four girls named to the '92 All-Observer first team finished among the top-10 in the individual race at the Class A state meet: A.J. Koritnik, Livonia Stevenson; Sharmila Prasad, Farmington Hills Mercy; Emily Shively, North Farmington; and Amy Freund, Mercy.

Stevenson will lose Koritnik to graduation but the Spartans' future looks promising with two of

Koritnik's teammates, Bridget MacKinnon and Sarah Rieder, also making the first team. MacKinnon is a junior and Rieder a freshman.

Plymouth Salem placed second in the Western Lakes Activities Association and was led by freshman Leah Retherford, a member of the Observer first-team.

Farmington Hills Mercy won its second-straight Catholic League championship and for that, coach Gary Servais is coach of the Observer first-team.

Following is a profile of each runner:

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

A.J. Koritnik, senior, Stevenson: Koritnik's best time (18:54) established a Stevenson record. Koritnik, undrafted in the last two seasons, placed second in Class A and second at the regional. She also won the Gabriel Richard, Ypsilanti and Centerville Invitational and owns a 4.0 grade point average.

"A.J. was the most dedicated runner on the team," coach Paul Holmberg said. "She led every practice and was never out-worked. She sets goals that most people would only dream of. She is a confident and fierce competitor who is driven by her desire to succeed."

Sharmila Prasad, senior, Farmington Mercy: Prasad was a three-time state qualifier, capped her career with a sixth-place finish at the Class A meet earlier this month. She was 22nd in 1991 and 42nd in '90. A three-time All-Catholic performer, Prasad placed third at the Class A regional and had a best time of 19:03. She was a Catholic League and Operation Friendship individual champion.

"Sharmila has worked very hard to become the first all-state runner I ever coached," Servais said. "Her dedication and hard work reflect her love for the sport. We will miss her leadership and love of the sport next year."

Emily Shively, senior, N. Farmington: Shively's best time (18:18) earned her a Class A regional championship. She was eighth at the Class A meet (19:22), second in the WLLAA (19:17) and Walled Lake Western meet (20:00) and third in both the Huron and Redford Union Invitational.

"Emily's turning point was the RU Invitational," North coach Bill Pineall said. "From that point on she started running with more desire and determination. Her stride was more aggressive and you could see the intensity in her face. It was nice to see the hard work and dedication pay off with the success that she had."



A.J. Koritnik Stevenson



Sharmila Prasad Mercy



Emily Shively N. Farmington



Amy Freund Mercy



Leah Retherford Salem



Bridget MacKinnon Stevenson



Dana Goba Farmington



Sarah Rieder Stevenson

Selection process

The full All-Area selection process for the girls cross country team was done by area coaches who attended a recent meeting at the Observer office in Livonia.

Each area coach is extended an invitation to the meeting.

The All-Area football and girls basketball teams will be selected by the Observer sports staff.



Malla Dixon Ladywood



Kathleen Landellus Canton

Amy Freund, junior, Mercy: Freund was 10th at the Class A meet and fifth at the regional. She placed second in the Catholic League meet behind teammate Sharmila Prasad and was third in the Operation Friendship meet.

"Amy can and will continue to get better as long as she keeps increasing her quality running time," Servais said. "Next year she will also be expected to pick up the leadership role. Amy has really developed into an outstanding runner."

Leah Retherford, freshman, Salem: Retherford made an impact as a freshman runner, twice breaking 20 minutes. She won the Westland John Glenn Invitational (19:53) and was 17th at the Class A meet (19:59). Retherford took 12th at the regional (20:34) and fifth at the WLLAA meet (20:19). She also placed second at the Ann Arbor Pioneer Invitational (21:17) and was fourth at the Ypsilanti Invitational (20:27).

Dana Goba, sophomore, Farmington: Goba finished 25th in the Class A individual race (20:20), seventh in the regional (20:11), eighth in the WLLAA (20:28), seventh in Oakland County and fifth at West Bloomfield.

"Her times got better and better as the season progressed," coach John Barrott said. "She peaked at the end of the year. Her best meets were the regional and state meets. She probably would have done better (at state) if she hadn't been sick (with strep throat). I'm confident she would have been under 20 minutes."

Bridget MacKinnon, junior, Stevenson: MacKinnon's best time (20:00) was

the third fastest ever run by a Stevenson runner. She placed 18th at the Class A meet, 15th at regional and seventh in the WLLAA meet the last two straight seasons.

With continued improvement, MacKinnon could be the "A.J. Koritnik" of 1993.

"Bridget places team goals above her personal goals," Holmberg said. "She will drop back in a race to urge a teammate on and give them encouragement. She will be a great leader to build next year's team around."

Sarah Rieder, freshman, Stevenson: Rieder gave the Spartans, already strong in the senior and junior classes, strength from the freshman class. Her best time was 20:10 and she took 26th at the Class A meet, 18th at the regional and 11th in the WLLAA.

The future looks secure for several years with Rieder and other freshmen providing a foundation for success, Holmberg said.

"Sarah was the best of a good group of freshmen to join Stevenson's team," Holmberg said. "Her accomplishments were outstanding. She should be the first Stevenson girl to run in four state meets."

Malla Dixon, senior, Ladywood: Dixon placed 16th at the Class regional and

fourth fastest time in Canton history. Landellus was 34th in the Class A meet (20:34), 14th at regional (20:43) and sixth in the Western Lakes meet (20:23). Landellus, who carries a 4.0 grade point average, placed second in the Jefferson Invitational (20:39) and fifth at the Canton Invitational (20:07). She broke 21 minutes eight times.

"Kathleen is a strong competitor who thrives on running in pressure meets," coach George Przygodzki said. "Her year-long training regimentation, combined with her competitive nature has made her a successful athlete like us."

tyouts 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at Northville High School for ages 11 through 14. The Chargers have won six state championships in the last three years.

For information call Larry Cupp (420-0681) for ages 11 and 13, Bill Kobusz (933-0014) for age 12 and Jim Wickett (645-1913) for age 14.

SPORTS SHORTS

Items for the Sports Roundup should be submitted by 5 p.m. Tuesday (for Thursday edition) and 5 p.m. Friday (for the Monday edition).

■ GIRLS HOOP TRYOUTS

The West Oakland Chargers girls basketball team will have

tryouts 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at Northville High School for ages 11 through 14. The Chargers have won six state championships in the last three years.

For information call Larry Cupp (420-0681) for ages 11 and 13, Bill Kobusz (933-0014) for age 12 and Jim Wickett (645-1913) for age 14.

CROSS COUNTRY

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY 1992 ALL-AREA TEAM

FIRST TEAM	
A.J. Koritnik	Stevenson
Sharmila Prasad	Mercy
Emily Shively	N. Farmington
Leah Retherford	Salem
Bridget MacKinnon	Stevenson
Dana Goba	Farmington
Sarah Rieder	Stevenson
Malla Dixon	Ladywood
Kathleen Landellus	Canton

SECOND TEAM	
Allison Roe	Harrison
Keegan Keefe	N. Farmington
Tina Moore	John Glenn
Laura Williams	Canton
Kerrie Simpson	N. Farmington
Sandi Schutte	Franklin
Stacy Wilhoff	Salem
Kris Brazin	Churchill
Emily Farrell	Salem
Jenette Lukowski	Franklin

COACH OF THE YEAR	
Gary Servais	Mercy

HONORABLE MENTION

Mary Thewes, Stephanie Johnson, Mercy; Pam Kolongoski, Mandy Micho, Gretchen Schroeder, John Glenn; Sarah Dixon, Jackie Taylor, Nicole Dupak, Julie Brown, Ladywood; Tanya Knight, Thurston; Corey Gakewiler, Sarah Hamilton, Stacy Moore, Lynda Schesteyn, Salem; Ariel Azupard, Tracy Lapum, Lutheran Westland; Lisa Reinikainen, Jenny Hanawa, Jaime Riggs, Harrison; Liz Robertson, Sarah Brady, Franklin; Tracey Parker, Carol McCoy, Churchill; Kanna Kipolomon, Canton; Kelly Pook, Ames Dwojak, Nicole Fisher, Lara Pilon, Stevenson; Alicia Crossland, N. Farmington; Mercedes Langley, Amy Ruff, Redford Union; Pam Guba, Anne Grenada, Farmington.

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