

Raiders runners-up; Marlins rout Mustangs

The North Farmington girls track team had its best performance ever at the Stafford Relays Saturday, finishing second to Plymouth Salem.

The Raiders, who won three events and were second in three, scored 75 points (just 13 less than Salem) in the 12-team meet.

Northville was third (57), Lake Orion fourth (42) and Farmington fifth (33).

Ava Lala, Heather Burcar and Monica Czerwinski combined with Shannon McCoy to win the sprint relay (3:02) and Carrie May to win the 800 relay (1:52.1).

The foursome of Amanda Hough, Kegan Keefover, Meg Wolff and Jaime Brenner captured first place in the 4K medley (23:15.3).

"We did a lot better than we expected," North coach Bill Pinnell said. "The support and camaraderie on the team has helped. This team has started to come together as a group."

"I'm really pleased with the progress we've made during the season. All the hard work, dedication and commitment is starting to pay off."

Devonie Pinnel and Marie Casadei teamed with Alisha Gordon

GIRLS TRACK

for second in the shot put relay (84.3).

Gordon, Allison Branton, Lala and Czerwinski were runners-up in the 400 relay (54.3), and Burcar, Keefover, Branton and McCoy finished second in the 1,600 (4:26.8).

"The 400 and 800 relays had problems earlier in the year with the handoffs and lately have been doing really well," Pinnell said.

"In one race, another girl was coming up on (McCoy). She dug down a little deeper and held on. She showed a lot of desire and drive on the straightaway. Kegan also did that in the 1,600 relay."

"The 4K medley did a good job. We were in second and 30 seconds behind Salem. Brenner ran down the Salem two-miler (on the anchor leg) and we ended up winning."

Keefover, McCoy, Hough and Brenner were third in the distance medley (14:10.4); Tricia Traczek, Michelle Marsee and Purcell were fourth in the high jump (12-11); Katie Atto, Marsee, Stephanie Auld and Gordon were

sixth in the shuttle hurdles (1:20.8).

MARLINS BEAT MUSTANGS

Renee Arceno and Amy Buhl led Farmington Hills Mercy to a 73-55 victory over host Birmingham Marian in a Catholic League dual meet Tuesday at Heather Rice.

The Marlins are tied with Livonia Ladywood and Dearborn Divine Child for first place in the Central Division standings — all with 3-1 records. Mercy is 4-1 overall.

Arceno won the shot put (33-7) and discus (102-8). Buhl led the 100 hurdles (17.8) and the 300s (53.3).

Mercy's Amy Freund won the 800 run (2:34.2) and Lisa Nobles the 3,200 run (13:29.6), and they combined with Brandy Johnson and LaQuetta Freeman for first place in the 3,200 relay (10:59.1).

The Marlins also had first in the high jump from Julie Angell (4-6), 1,600 run from Mary Thews (6:24.4) and the 800 relay with the team of Tarric Smith, Johnson, Ellen O'Connell and Freeman (1:34.7).

Marian's Brandi Bentley won the long jump (16-3½) and 200 dash (27.3). Atiya Bussey the 100 dash (12.5) and 400 run (1:00.6). The Mustangs also won the 400 (58.2) and 1,600 (4:26.9) relays.

"We're looking toward the weekend meet and trying to set up for that," said Mercy coach Gary Servais of the Lansing Waverly Invitational on Friday. "We're coming around and trying to get everyone healthy for the league and regional meets now."

The Marlins, 4-1 overall, have a home meet Tuesday against Ypsilanti.

HAWKS 3RD IN RELAYS

Farmington Harrison placed third in the Algonac Relays behind Rochester Adams (80) and Mount Clemens Chipewake Valley (92) Saturday. The Hawks were fourth or better in eight of the 12 events and scored 72 points.

"Last year we were the runner-up, and we scored 10 points more this year," Harrison coach Mark Babcock said. "Under the circumstances (wet and windy), the girls did a good job."

The Hawks were second in the shuttle hurdle relay (Erika Greene, Nichelle Howard, Sarah Hone and Krista Snow), 111.7; long jump (Snow, Rachel Buckley and Gretchen Dunham), 41-2½; coed 800 relay (Mandi Berg, Laura Conception, Mike Korby and Gabi Trumble), 1:58.4; and the 3,200 (Nikki Herman, Jenny Lapinski, Marie Tripp and Allison Noel), 10:40.

Berg, Conception and Patti Dison also got third in the shot put (55-8), and Conception and Dison teamed with Leil Svake for fifth in the discus (230-3).

Snow was fourth (18.4) and Greene eighth (17.4) in the open 100 hurdles, and Devron Kennedy was fourth in the 100 dash (13.1).

Kennedy and Snow also combined with Cicely Dowdell and Angie Pears for fourth in the 400 relay (54.5). Kennedy, Melani Benkula, Margo Ward and Herman were fifth in the 1,600 (4:30).

The Hawks travel to Lansing for the Waverly Invitational on Friday.



Running for the Raiders: Kegan Keefover was one of many girls who contributed to North Farmington's second-place finish at the Stafford Relays.

Gaul from page 1B

"I guess you could say I've been stuck there ever since. It's fun but it's hard on the legs. That's why I'm taking a break from it (this week)."

"We have only one other triple jumper and she graduated, so I'm it next year."

Gaul also ran the 55-meter

dash at the indoor meet, finishing sixth in that event and fifth in the triple jump.

"That was the highlight of my year," she said. "That was a heckuva day. It was indescribable. I'll never forget it."

Gaul went to Ferris State to

study pharmacy, though she has since changed her major to biotechnology, and didn't intend to be so involved in a sport.

"But it so happened they had a track program, and I thought I'd give it a try," she said. "This year was kind of a surprise. I never expected to get where I have. When

I was a freshman, no one could have told me 'You'll be going to nationals as a junior,' but things worked out."

"I've been into it more mentally this year. We've been going since September and some of the practices have been grueling, but the hard work has paid off."

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