

Starting line:
The boys
competition
gets under-
way Thurs-
day in the
annual cross
country
competition at Oak-
land Community Col-
lege North
Farmington
with the boys
racing again,
and Farm-
ington High
repeated as
the girls
champion.



SCOTT PHOTOS BY SHARON L. LUTHE

City champs from page B1

"Matt looked better today, which is encouraging," Welch said, referring to the fact Welch entered the season behind the others in terms of summer workouts. "He's going to be the one we go down the stretch."

As quick as he can get down the stretch, he'll be there. "I was pleased with (freshman) Gene Furman. His assignment was to stay up there with the main pack, and he did exactly what he was supposed to do."

"I would have liked to see more of the group up there with (Stamboulis and Goodman), but I can't say much. We did fairly well. I can say anything negative about the race, but I'd like to tighten up the pack." Welch said he didn't know what to expect running for the first time on a different OCC course, but maintaining the pack was essential. The Raiders did that well enough to dominate the meet.

"I want them to feel comfortable running in that pack, because the pack can be extremely effective," Welch said. "The times have to be right, but if we get them in the right spot (the pack) can be a very powerful thing."

Millat, Kaufman and Lula are

the keys to a successful meet, he added.

"If they (keep the pack tight), we're going to do well," Welch said. "If they go back, that's when we become vulnerable."

Farmington coach Chip Bridges had hoped the Falcons could give the Raiders a better race, but Farmington didn't have sufficient support for Tobo.

After Furman, the Falcons took eight of the next nine places, but they needed to break up North's top eight to make a race of it.

"Chris Tobo ran a fabulous race," Bridges said. "He ran his best race from start to finish. He works as hard as anybody I've ever had. He's been working on learning how to run a race, and today was his best as far as being in the right position and carrying it through to the finish."

"As for the rest of our team, I wonder if we were almost too excited. We know North was the team to beat, but we really thought we could make the meet close."

"I wonder if we weren't too pumped up, because we felt we were ready to have a good race and it just didn't work out for us."

"But it's early in the season, and we have a lot of meets left.

Even though we're a little disappointed today, I'm really excited about where we're going."

In the girls race, Farmington coach Ann Badynee and her team anticipated another close race with North Farmington, but it didn't materialize.

The Falcons, who won 28-29 last year, dominated the course and defeated the Raiders by an 18-point margin, 26-44.

"We knew North was a very strong team; we knew it was going to be a tough battle," Badynee said. "The Farmington girls stepped it up when they had to. It was a team effort to win the city championship."

"We were coming in as defending champs by one point. That was definitely motivation. We've been gearing up for this all week."

"To see a little success like this is great for our confidence and what we've been doing in our training runs."

Frank was the only female runner to break 21 minutes and won the girls race with a 20:57 time, but the Falcons had five in the top 10.

Farmington's Megan Annarino was second, Kristin Balla third, Julie Power fifth, Shanna Barkume sixth and Claire

Czaplicki 10th.

"We've been working on running as a pack," Badynee said. "Our goal was to move that pack up, and we certainly did it."

"Megan and Kristin have been running well all year. Julie, Shanna and Claire definitely moved up. That's what we needed to do today to pull out a win."

"We're gradually getting better and that's our goal. The course was tougher than we anticipated, but we're definitely improving."

North coach Bill Pinnell was frustrated by his team's performance, but an injury to Holly Stockton no doubt contributed to the wider margin in the final score.

Stockton, who is usually the No. 2 runner for the Raiders, competed despite a leg injury and finished 22nd when she ordinarily would have been in the top 10 at least.

"We questioned whether she should run today," Pinnell said. "She wanted to run because she's a senior and it's the city meet. She hung in there as long as she could."

Frank ran a strong race from start to finish, and Kelly Kuo, who was second for North, is still "coming along nicely," he added.



Race winner: North Farmington senior Heidi Frank won the girls race for the second year in a row.

CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

FARMINGTON CITY MEET
Sept. 23 at Oakland Community College

BOYS RESULTS
Team scores: 1. North Farmington, 18 points; 2. Farmington, 49; 3. Farmington Raiders, 107.

Individual finishers: 1. Charlie Stamboulis (H), 17:40; 2. Ethan Goodman (N), 17:50; 3. Chris Tobo (F), 17:55; 4. Matt Wiegand (H), 18:17; 5. Mike Millat (N), 18:22; 6. Jimmy Lala (N), 18:24; 7. Mike Downman (H), 18:24; 8. Isaac Kaufman (N), 18:25; 9. Eugene Furman (N), 18:27; 10. Andrew Kenner (F), 18:40; 11. Andrew Czaplicki (F), 18:51; 12. Ryan Kibawa (F), 19:01; 13. Mike McInerney (F), 19:16; 14. Tom Enson (F), 19:24; 15. Jon Keller (H), 19:33; 16. Chris Nagrant (F), 19:35; 17. Drew Mokke (F), 19:37; 18. Aaron Schneider (F), 19:42; 19. Andy Smith (H), 19:45; 20. James Choi (N), 19:45; 21. Joe Kari (N), 19:57; 22. Bryan Gligo (F), 19:58; 23. Steve Sargel (H), 20:08; 24. Elliott McEwen (H), 20:15; 25. Dan Carlsen (N), 20:16; 26. Jeff Mayaya (H), 20:17; 27. Jason Scarbrough (H), 20:57; 28. Wayne Wright (H), 21:10; 29. Nick Jarrell (H), 21:28; 30. Hal Best (F), 21:33; 31. Ben Gannon (H), 21:36; 32. Jason Shafer (H), 21:48; 33. Eric Lockwood (H), 21:58; 34. Justin Smiler (H), 22:00; 35. Sam Rejcek (N), 22:28; 36. Dave Harris (N), 22:30; 37. Martel Gibbs (H), 22:34; 38. Hannan Simms (H), 22:52; 39. Dan Lee (H), 22:59; 40. Hal Brundson (H), 23:00; 41. Tim Darnell (H), 23:40; 42. Paul Mizel (F), 23:48; 43. Doug Anderson (N).

24:04; 44. Andrew Singer (H), 24:15; 45. Charlie Raymond (F), 24:22; 46. Paul Adams (F), 24:34; 47. Matt Drew (H), 24:45; 48. Tom Piccini (F), 26:01; 49. Eddie Smith (H), 27:52; 50. Blake Ochoa (F), 28:07; 51. Justin Bender (H), 32:25.

FARMINGTON CITY MEET
Sept. 23 at Oakland Community College

GIRLS RESULTS
Team scores: 1. Farmington, 30; 2. North Farmington, 44; 3. Farmington Raiders, 107.

Individual finishers: 1. Heidi Frank (N), 20:57; 2. Megan Annarino (F), 21:10; 3. Kristin Balla (F), 21:15; 4. Laura Lala (H), 21:55; 5. Julie Power (F), 22:10; 6. Shanna Barkume (F), 22:53; 7. Lynn Anderson (H), 22:54; 8. Kelly Kuo (N), 22:58; 9. Claire Czaplicki (N), 23:23; 10. Claire Czaplicki (N), 23:36; 11. Kristin Stamboulis (N), 23:42; 12. Danielle Miller (F), 23:46; 13. Shanna Barkume (F), 23:50; 14. Christine Miller (H), 23:52; 15. Shana Cherniak (H), 23:53; 16. Fallon James (F), 24:10; 17. Celine McLean (H), 24:22; 18. Sarah Miller (F), 24:41; 19. Ashley McElmurry (H), 25:10; 20. Amy Miller (H), 25:20; 21. Bethann Buzan (H), 25:59; 22. Holly Stockton (H), 26:03; 23. Clare Fletcher (H), 26:53; 24. Mandy McGee (F), 26:41; 25. Megan Hoas (H), 26:55; 26. Season Finkel (H), 27:30; 27. Juliette Smith (H), 28:00; 28. Catherine Broutelle (F), 30:03; 29. Lauren Graham (F), 30:45; 30. Sherrill Ben-Yuri (H), 30:54; 31. Sandra Smith (H), 31:00; 32. Debbie Hicks (H), 31:27; 33. Katie McDermott (H), 32:57.

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