

Girls Track from page D1

has potential in the hurdles. Mercey is solid in the sprints with Marshall, Johnson and Crawford with support from senior Nicole Rutecki, a transfer from Illinois, junior Dior Harris and sophomore E'Leyla Rudolph.

"It looks like we have a lot more depth there," Servais said. "It looks like a pretty strong crew. It was a strong area last year, but it looks like we'll be even better this year."

Rable, who was a quarter-mile, has stepped up to the 800 and maybe even the longer distances because of the number of capable sprinters Mercey has.

"I saw her in some of the same races I was running," Servais said. "She was running up there with me, so I figured we might as well move her up."

Junior Maggie Layman, freshmen Shannon LaFave and Elizabeth Williams and first-year senior Elise Van Holsbeke are key distance runners.

"It looks like we're going to have more quality and depth there than we had last year, too," Servais said. The Marlins, who were three points behind regional champion Rochester, start the season Tuesday, April 16, at Livonia Ladywood.

"We're hoping to get over the top this year," Servais said. "If we keep everybody healthy, we'll make a run at it."

"I'm hoping, if we get all our athletes to the league meet, it will be a good meet between Livonia Child, Marian and ourselves."

**North Farmington**  
The distance races and the discus are team strengths for the Raiders, who return a first-team, all-area runner in junior Susan Barrows.



Ann Roosevelt Farmington Hills Mercey



Sharifa Crawford Farmington Hills Mercey



Susan Barrows North Farmington



Krystal Wise Farmington Harrison

Swinger and Lannon Yunick in the discus, making that another solid event, according to Pinnell. Ulewicz was the only high jumper last year, but she focused on the pole vault, giving freshmen Becca and Jenny Weiss a lead role in the high jump.

The pole vault should be a strong event with senior Kiersten Cummings returning, and Dragolova enters the season as key distance runners.

Senior Jennifer Jary and sophomore AJ Kawashima are the only hurdlers, making depth an issue in that event as well as the high jump.

"I think distance events and

area's best all-around athletes in senior captain Kate Bouschet, who will compete in the sprints and the long jump.

The distance events should be an area of strength for the Falcons, who return junior Claire Czaplicki, seniors Kristin Ballu and Megan Annarino and sophomore Angie Schoener.

The discus girls have been a strong group for a while, especially in cross country," Kuzkuz said. "We have so many new kids coming out; it will be interesting to see Thursday where the strength of the team lies."

The Falcons lost an excellent hurdler to graduation in Kristel

"In my opinion, the key to all teams is seniors and leadership," coach Mark Babcock said. "We have some who've had a lot of experience, and we're hoping that's going to pay a dividend."

Although still only a sophomore, Krystal Wise made the All-Observer first team in the 200 dash. She is the reigning city champion in that event and the 100.

Junior Melanie Banks and sophomore Natalie Donoho help to make the sprints an area of strength for the Hawks.

Senior captain Christine Metry, an all-area selection in cross country, is the top distance runner and is much improved, according to Babcock.

"She had a terrific winter," he said. "She's better than she was in cross country and the dual couple track seasons."

Freshman Shannon Bailey had a good cross country season, too, and should help in the distance events.

Senior Clara Fletcher was second-team, all-area in the 800 run, and junior Laura Glynn, who just missed placing in the state meet, made the third team in the 400 dash. Both will be key members of relay teams.

Senior captains Angela Fodor and Lalaya Burrell are the team's top 100 and 300 hurdlers, respectively, and should be two of the best in the area this year.

"We've had some good luck there, and we have good leaders," Babcock said. "We're going to have to get some help from younger kids (for a shuttle hurdle relay team), but we have solid upperclassmen."

Junior Tarin Dew is the defending WLAA and regional champion in the discus, and she competed well on the winter indoor circuit, according to Babcock.

Senior captain Dobi Hicks is a four-year thrower and will be a key contributor in the shot put and discus. Junior Tanya Hicks (no relation to Dobi) is another veteran thrower.

The Hawks have a two-time regional pole vault champion in senior captain Julietta Larina, who will help in the long jump, too. Banks, who was third in the regional, is a good long jumper, too. Junior Jamila Fair is the most experienced high jumper, but the Hawks lack depth in that event without Maggie Condini (volleyball) and Shelby Gribeck (gymnastics), both of whom are concentrating on other sports.

Harrison, which was 6-1 in dual meets and second to Plymouth Canton in the WLAA Western Division, starts the season today at Westland John Glenn.

"In this sport, I think you need some luck," Babcock said. "If we have some luck and kids don't get hurt or sick, we could have a pretty decent season ... we have some solid athletes."

TRACK RESULTS

DEARBORN EDSEL FORD 74

FARMINGTON HILLS MERCEY 54

April 9 at Dearborn Edsel Ford

Discus: Ann Roosevelt (EF), 102.3; shot put: Barbour (EF), 34.7; high jump: Ashley Kasprowicz (M), 4-10; long jump: Moallimani (EF), 14-1 3/4; 3,200-meter relay: Edsel Ford, 1:05.1; 100 hurdles: Whitney Johnson (M), 16.2; 100 dash: Alexandria Marshall (M), 12.7; 800 relay: Mercey (Nicole Rutecki, E'Leyla Rudolph, Dior Harris, Marshall), 1:55.0; 1,600 relay: Mercey (Rutecki, Rudolph, Harris, Marshall), 5:53.0; 400 dash: Egners (EF), 1:08.6; 300 hurdles: Johnson (M), 40.2; 800 run: Kroll (EF), 2:35.7; 200 dash: Marshall (M), 26.3; 3,200 run: Carty (EF), 11:54.3; 1,600 relay: Edsel Ford, 4:37.5.

Mercey second places: high jump, Ashleigh Worford, 4-0; 800 run, Shannon LaFave 2:52.0; 200 dash, Johnson, 28.0.

Mercey third places: long jump, Danielle Underwood, 13-10 1/2; shot put, Roosevelt, 31-11; discus, Vanessa Turner, 90-6; 100 dash, Rutecki, 13.9; 1,600 run, LaFave, 8:11.5.

Coach's comments: "It was our first chance to see all the kids in action," Mercey coach Gary Servais said. "We're still sorting out, trying to figure out, what the best events are for the team and to get the most out of each athlete. We have a lot of young, first-year kids who have a lot of talent and have to learn the ins and outs of track and field."

discus will probably be two of our stronger events," Pinnell said. "I think we're going to be much better than we have been in the sprints. We have a lot of young girls out, and I think we're going to see a lot of improvement throughout the year in the 100 and 200."

The Raiders begin the season today with a home dual meet against Northville and will be at Farmington next Thursday.

"We're hoping to finish in the top five at the (Division I) regional, finish in the middle of the pack at the conference meet and give Harrison a run for the city meet title," Pinnell said.

**Farmington High**  
The Falcons have a new coach this year in Dawn Kuzkuz, a first-year Spanish teacher at Farmington High School and first-time coach.

Kuzkuz, who competed in track and field at Novi High School as a sprinter, long jumper and high jumper, replaces Ann Badmeyer.

Farmington has one of the

**Farmington Harrison**  
With every area of the track and field covered with quality athletes, 2002 has the potential to be a very good year for the Hawks.

Madonna softball team divides DH

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Jamie Bobrowski slugged a double, homer and two singles, driving in three runs and scoring three Tuesday to lead Madonna University past host Spring Arbor in the first game of a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference women's softball double-header, 10-6.

In the second game, the Cougars' Erin Kershaw shut out the Crusaders, 4-0, on five hits and three walks.

Madonna is 12-15 overall, 6-8 in the WHAC; Spring Arbor is 12-19 overall, 8-8 in the conference.

Emily Cunningham added three hits and an RBI and Tara Turner collected two hits and an RBI in Madonna's opening-game win.

Missy VanDoorn was the winning pitcher, allowing six runs (one earned) on nine hits and two walks, striking out four, to improve to 8-7. Holly Davidson took the loss for Spring Arbor.

Tenyer absorbed the loss in the second game, giving up four runs (three earned) on 12 hits (no walks) to fall to 4-8. Cunningham was the only Crusader with two hits.

**Crusaders split series**  
Concordia University is supposed to be among the softball elite in the WHAC. Madonna is not.

And yet, the Lady Crusaders were no easy chasers for the Cardinals in a four-game set played last weekend.

The two teams divided the series, Concordia winning Friday 6-3, but Madonna getting the victory Saturday 6-1, both games played at Concordia.

Sunday's double-header at Madonna Park, the Crusaders won the opener 4-2 but lost the nightcap 8-0.

Concordia is 18-9 overall, 8-2 in the conference.

Sunday's double-header got off to a good start for the Lady Crusaders, who took a 3-0 lead in the fourth inning. Jamie Bobrowski followed a single by Arin Fowler and the first of two doubles by Emily Cunningham with a two-run single; Bobrowski eventually scored the third run of the inning on a passed ball.

Bobrowski, Cunningham and Kathy Day (Livonia Ladywood) each had two hits in the game for Madonna. Missy VanDoorn got the pitching win; she gave up two unearned runs on seven hits and three walks, striking out five.

In Sunday's second game, the Crusaders could not solve Concordia pitcher Kim Horton, who frustrated them on six hits and two walks, striking out four in five innings. Jenny Tenyer took the loss for Madonna, giving up eight runs (three earned) on 10 hits and three walks in five innings.

Autumn Batylik and Tenyer each had two hits in the game to lead Madonna. Horton and Jenny Knight each had two hits and two RBIs and Robin Santiago had three hits, two of them doubles, to pace Concordia.

On Saturday, Cunningham went 4-for-4 at the plate with two doubles, two runs scored and two RBIs. Fowler had three hits and scored three runs and Bobrowski had two hits (one of them a triple) and two RBIs. VanDoorn got the win, tossing a four-hitter, giving up one unearned run and three walks with two strikeouts.

Friday's game was frustrating for the Crusaders, who carried a 3-0 lead into the bottom of the fourth inning but surrendered three runs in the fourth and two more in the fifth. Tenyer got the loss, giving up five runs (one earned) on seven hits (no walks), striking out two.

Mary Warchuck and Krystal Shina (Farmington Mercey) each had two hits and an RBI for Madonna. Batylik added a double and an RBI. Horton got the pitching win for Concordia, giving up two earned runs on six hits and six walks. Santiago led the Cardinal attack with two hits and two RBIs.

**AQUINAS 2-1, LADYWOOD 1-3:** The Lady Crusaders divided their WHAC double-header last Thursday with Aquinas College, losing the opener 2-1, but winning the nightcap 3-1 Thursday at Livonia Ladywood High School.

The opening game loss was tough to take. Madonna led 1-0 going into the sixth, thanks to a fourth-inning Jamie Bobrowski double off the wall in right that brought home Emily Cunningham. Aquinas tied it with three singles off Crusader pitcher Missy VanDoorn in the sixth. Krista Marinello's shot off VanDoorn's mouth driving in the run.

The game-winner came home without the benefit of a hit. An error and two walks loaded the bases; the winning run scored on a catcher's interference call.

VanDoorn took the loss, allowing one earned run on five hits and two walks, with two strikeouts, in seven innings. Her record is 5-6. Cassi Gregg got the win for Aquinas, giving up five hits and three walks, with one strikeout, in seven innings. Gregg is 6-1.

In the second game, the Crusaders scored single runs in the first and second, then added an insurance run in the fifth — all on just three hits. Mary Warchuck had two of them, driving in one run with a base hit in the fifth.

Jenny Tenyer overcame her record at 4-4, surrendering one unearned run on five hits and one walk, with two strikeouts, in seven innings. Lena Tompkins took the loss for Aquinas, giving up two runs (both unearned) on two hits in 4 1/3 innings; her record is 5-2.

Aquinas is 14-5 overall, 2-3 in the conference.

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