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Relays from page D1

meet by a comfortable 12.6 points over runner-up CC.

"Canton, of course, always figures out a way," Churchhill coach Rick Austin said. "And coach (Tony) Magni at CC always has a strong group coming off their state cross country run (Division I championship).

"Salem always has good performers and Harrison has great team speed. You can't discount them."

CC figures to be strong in the distance events as Ryan Lowry has recorded the top 1,600 clocking in the area so far this season (4:31.3), but will be followed closely by a trio of Livonia Churchill runners and a pair of Salem milers.

"We'll do fine in the distance events," Magni said. "We go into every meet thinking that if for some reason we can't win, let's at least come home with a trophy."

CC's Tom Grant, possibly the top hurdler in the area, will not run at the meet because of a pulled quadriceps muscle that needs some rest, according to Magni.

Not having him on the track means contending for the meet title will be much tougher for the Shamrock.

"Hopefully we'll be in the hunt," Magni said. "But I don't know if we can win it with him in the lineup. Our chances are even tougher without him in there."

Kobus and Grant have clocked the two fastest 110 hurdles times in the area this season.

Richardson said that is one of his favorite events of the day, one his team should do well in.

"We pride ourselves on the shuttle hurdles," he said. "It's not the kind of event you see very often, but one that I think we should do well with."

Harrison, the defending Division 2 state champions, will also field a strong group of athletes, particularly in the sprints.

Harrison's Charles Pickett and Woods have each run the 100 in under 11.5 seconds this season, while Woods, Terrill Mayberry and Agim Shabbaj have all hovered around the 23-second mark in the 200.

The Hawks return their entire winning sprint medley relay team from last year's Observerland, one of four first-place finishes they earned.

Meanwhile, another contender could be host Churchill.

"Our kids are really excited to run at home and we've talked about giving up personal glory to compete for the title," Austin

said. "Obviously we need big production in the field events, which is a strength for us, along with our distance, which is an anchor for our team."

The all-relay format seems to suit Austin's squad.

"Our overall team depth allows us to score in many different events," he said. "We have capable kids in the distance. We need some surprises in the sprints."

The 6:30 p.m. start time for the finals also lends a new element to the meet.

With more fans watching all the athletes under the lights, it's reminiscent of a dramatic Friday night regional meet.

"It's always a well-attended event and makes for a fun night of track," Richardson said. "I'm glad it's one of the few meets that starts later in the day."

Magni said the meet appeals to many because of the closeness of the schools and many of the kids involved in the meet.

"You're running against your neighborhood friends, kids you might have grown up with," the CC coach said. "Plus, people love to run under the lights. We'll get to see the best hurdlers, sprinters and mile kids in the area run in their races."

Brad Emans contributed to this report.

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TRACK & FIELD

DEARBORN DIVINE CHILD 98
FARMINGTON HILLS MERCY 32
April 30 at Dearborn High School

Shot put: Posa (DC), 35-0.5; discus: Anne Roosevelt (M), 110-3; high jump: Ashley Kaprowicz (M), 45-0; long jump: Osheesky (DC), 19-0; 200-meter hurdles: Whitney Johnson (M), 15-6; 300 hurdles: Osheesky (DC), 46-0; 100 dash: Osheesky (DC), 12.73; 200: Plutynowski (DC), 28.17; 400: E. Webster (DC), 1:05.7; 800 run: E. Webster (DC), 2:33.7; 1,600: L. Webster (DC), 5:32.2; 3,200: L. Webster (DC), 13:15; 400 relay: Divine Child, 54.2; 800 relay: Divine Child, 1:54.7; 1,600 relay: Divine Child, 4:27.3; 3,200 relay: Divine Child, 11:11.99.

Mercy second places: long jump, Danielle Underwood, 14.7; shot put, Valesha Turner, 32.6; 25; 100 dash, E'Leyla Rudolph, 13.5; 300 hurdles, Johnson, 47.0.

Mercy third places: shot put, Roostever, 32.5; discus, Turner, 92.0; 1,600 run, Shannon LaFave, 5:32.8; 300 hurdles, Sharife Crawford, 54.4; 3,200 run, Elizabeth Williams, 13:20.7.

Coach's comments: "We did a lot of experimenting and it didn't work out." Mercy coach Gary Seivais said, adding the Martins were missing three sprinters due to injury. "Hopefully, when we see them again in a couple weeks, we'll have everybody back, hopefully 20 days get most these people back on track."

Dual-meet records: Mercy, 1-2 Catholic League, 1-3 overall.

JACKSON INVITATIONAL
April 28 at Jackson High School

Team scores: Mercy was fifth out of nine teams. 1. Kalamazoo East, 106 points; 2. Grand Blanc, 95; 3. East Lansing, 92; 4. Portage Northern, 57; 5. Mercy, 55; 6. Jackson, 41.

Mercy first places: Whitney Johnson, 100 hurdles, 16.7; 300 hurdles, 48.2; third places: Johnson, 200 dash, 27.2; E'Leyla Rudolph, 100 dash, 13.8; Valesha Turner, discus, 95.3; Shannon LaFave, 3,200 run, 12:31.2.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BASEBALL
Friday, May 3
Harrison at W.L. Western, 4 p.m.
Farmington at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
John Glenn at N. Farmington, 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 4
Farmington at RU Tourney, TBA.

SOFTBALL
Thursday, May 2
N. Farmington at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
Friday, May 3
Marian at F.H. Mercy, 4 p.m.
Stevenson at Farmington, 4 p.m.
W.L. Western at Harrison, 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 4
Mercy at Satum Tournament, TBA.
NHS at Brandon Tournament, TBA.
Form. at Mattawan Tourney, 9 a.m.

GIRLS SOCCER
Friday, May 3
Farmington at W. Bloomfield, 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 4
Mercy at Trenton, 11 a.m.

BOYS TRACK & FIELD
Thursday, May 2
Canton at Harrison, 3:30 p.m.
N. Farmington at Salem, 3:30 p.m.
Stevenson at Farmington, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 4
Annual Observerland Relays
3:30 p.m. at Livonia Churchill.
Harrison, North, Farmington at Holy Invitational, TBA.

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
Thursday, May 2
Harrison at Canton, 3:30 p.m.
Salem at N. Farmington, 3:30 p.m.
Farmington at Stevenson, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 4
Harrison at Allegre Relays, TBA.
NHS at Liv. Stevenson Invite, TBA.
Mercy at Stevenson Invite, TBA.

BOYS TENNIS
Thursday, May 2
Andover at N. Farmington, 4 p.m.
Farmington at W. Bloomfield, 4 p.m.

Friday, May 3
Harrison at N. Farmington, 4 p.m.
Northville at Farmington, 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 4
N. Farmington, Harrison at Novi Invitational, TBA.

GIRLS GOLF
Friday, May 3
Farmington at John Glenn, 3 p.m.
Mercy at Traversa City Tourney.

Saturday, May 4
Mercy at Traversa City Tourney.

BOYS LACROSSE
Friday, May 3
Farmington at Clarkson, 5 p.m.

GIRLS LACROSSE
Friday, May 3
Bloomfield at Farmington, 5 p.m.

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