

# Harrison teams repeat as regional champs

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Farmington Harrison was a double winner in track and field again, capturing the boys and girls titles in the Division II regional at Algonac High School.

The Hawks won the Warren Fitzgerald meets last year but were moved farther north to a new regional assignment this year. "The teams were maybe not state champions (such as Detroit Renaissance), but they were better all-around teams in that (Algonac) region," Harrison girls coach Mark Babcock said.

"They were more well-rounded teams. There wasn't any sprint-dominated team like before but some pretty good ones."

The Harrison boys, who are the defending state champions, chalked up 120 team points Friday to finish well ahead of runner-up Auburn Hills Avondale (91) and third-place Marine City (64).

The Hawks had five individual regional champions and won three relays. The top two in each event qualify for the Division II state meet June 1 in Grand Rapids.

Eric Latoschkin won the pole vault (13-1), Marcus Woods the 100-meter dash (11.2), Terrill Mayberry the 400 dash (48.8), Kevin Davis the 300 intermediate hurdles (39.9) and Argen Shabay the 200 dash (21.9).

Harrison also posted winning times of 1:29.7 in the 800 relay, 43.96 in the 400 relay and 3:24.5 in the 1,600 relay. Shabay, Woods, Mike Bartley, Charles Pickett, Mayberry and Fermon Tate comprised the relay teams.

"Finishing second and qualifying

## REGIONAL TRACK

for the state meet were Ramy Suliman in the pole vault (13-0) and Mayberry in the 200 dash (22.2). Tate in the 800 run and Davis in the high hurdles were additional qualifiers.

"We always focus on the regional," Harrison boys coach John Reed said. "We treat it like it's a state championship. Considering the weather, we had a spectacular performance."

"We got home late, but it was worth the wait. The composure of the kids was amazing. It was 38 degrees and I didn't hear them any one time how cold they were. They told us they were committed and focused on what they had to do."

Harrison scored 92 points in the girls competition Friday night and was followed by Marine City with 70 and Livonia Ladywood with 68.5.

The Hawks had a double state qualifier in senior Christine Metry, who won the 3,200 run (11:56.7) and also was second in the 1,600 run (6:27.2).

"That was something she has been looking forward to the whole season, and she has been preparing really hard for it," Babcock said. "She had her mind made up what she wanted to do."

"She ran a pretty good mile race and an excellent two-mile. She's a senior with a lot of experience, and she was really determined."

Harrison had one other individual winner in junior Laura Glynn, who had the best time in the 400 dash (1:01.6). She just missed winning last year and was the region-

al runner-up. "We knew she had not run her best race yet this year," Babcock said. "We knew she was capable of running much better, and this was as good a time as any."

"Of all the races I've seen her run, she ran a faster time at the state meet last year but probably not as good a race. She took it out really hard and did a good job from beginning to end."

Harrison's 1,600 relay team of Glynn, Metry, Clara Fletcher and Lindsey Branch led most of the race but was edged for first place by Marine City. Fletcher and Glynn were on the relay team that went to state last year.

"They were frozen solid," Babcock said, adding the race was run about 11 p.m. with the temperature dipping into the 30s, "but they did a really good job."

The Hawks had an additional qualifier in senior Julieta Iarina, who was fourth in the pole vault (8-9) but achieved the necessary height. It's the third straight year she has qualified.

"The weather alone made it tough to vault," Babcock said. "It was hard to hold the pole when it's that cold and get it to bend."

"She missed her first couple attempts but kept getting better and better. She showed a lot of experience; she didn't get flustered or give up."

Krystal Wise was third in the 100 and 200 dashes and contributed in the sprint relays, too. "She was tremendous," Babcock

said. "With all the prelims, she ran eight races and we certainly couldn't have done it without her. "She's one I have to give a lot of credit to. She's one of our warriors, one of the kids who runs four events all the time."

### North boys finish 3rd

The North Farmington boys had a successful effort in the Division I regional Saturday at West Bloomfield, finishing third in the team standings and having five state qualifiers.

Birmingham Brother Rice had 88 points, West Bloomfield 69.33, North Farmington 60 and Birmingham Groves 45.33 to top the field of 13 teams that scored.

"I was pretty pleased with the effort, considering the weather conditions," North coach Jeff Simpson said, adding the athletes had to deal with rain, sleet and snow. "It was really bad; it was unbelievable."

"Given the conditions, the kids battled well and scored some points in events people didn't expect us to. To be third in a regional with 20 teams says a lot about our team."

Junior Eugene Furman, who was seeded eighth, won the 800 run (2:03.7) in what some might have thought was a surprising victory but not Simpson.

"It was a really tight field," he said. "We knew he had a chance at it. He's never really been tested this year. He ran a smart race. He hung back the first lap and made his move on the backstretch. He took the lead and never looked back."

"It was good for him to break through in that sense. He was

looking forward to this all year. We kept him out of the mile, so he would be ready just for the half and he came through."

Dan Perach was first in the pole vault again (12-3) and teammate Ramis Bairami was second (11-3); however, they were the only entries since the other Oakland County and Detroit schools don't participate in the event.

Simpson was especially pleased senior Mike Leach qualified with a second-place finish in the 110 high hurdles (15.2). He also competed in the high jump and was fourth in the 300 hurdles.

"That's the one thing I was looking for going into the day -- for Mike to qualify for the state meet," Simpson said. "He has worked really hard for four years, and he's the one kid I definitely felt deserved to go to the state meet in any event."

"The burden was lifted after the 110 hurdles. After the 300 hurdles, he had to go back and high jump. That took a lot out of him. The rest of the day he competed, but he got to go; that was the big thing."

The fifth qualifier was Drew Roberts, who tied for second place in the high jump at 5-10.

"He's been jumping well all year," Simpson said. "The conditions didn't favor jumping; he was jumping into the wind. He made it on his second attempt, and there were only three that made 5-10. For him it's a tremendous confidence boost to go to state as a junior."

### More state qualifiers

In the girls regional at West Bloomfield, Farmington Hills

Mercy's Whitney Johnson won the 100 and 300 hurdle races in 15.0 and 47.1, respectively. Mercy's Anne Roosevelt won the discus (121-7) and Alexandria Marshall the 400 dash (1:00.3).

North Farmington had two state qualifiers in Kristin Ulwicz, who won the pole vault (8-0) and Susan Barrows, who was second in the 1,600 run (6:28.3) and the 3,200 (11:40.8).

### OTHER REGIONAL SCORES

**North Farmington boys:** Eugene Franklin, 8th place, discus (129-8); Darwin Young, fourth, shot put (45-2.75); Brian Sinar, fifth, 110 hurdles (15-4); 3,200 relay, sixth, 8:39.0; Mike Leach, fourth, 300 hurdles (41.4); 1,600 relay, fourth, 3:36.1.

**North Farmington girls:** Vanessa Turner, fifth, discus (103-0); Roosevelt, fifth, shot put (33-4.5); Danielle Underwood, fifth, long jump (15-8); 800 relay, fourth, 3:50.4.

**Farmington girls:** Betty Wade, third, high jump (5-1); Kate Shoushet, fourth, long jump (15-2); Ashton Frederick, fifth, 100 hurdles (17-2); Rachel Burton, third, 1,600 run (5:40-0); Becky Willard, sixth, 1,600 run (5:48-8); Wade, third, 400 dash (1:01-4); Lindsey Hall, third, 300 hurdles (51-3); Kristin Dallas, third, 800 run (2:31-1); Megan Anastro, fifth, 3,200 run (12:30-7); Claire Czaplinski, sixth, 3,200 run (12:37-9).

**Harrison boys:** Brett Laird, third, pole vault (11-9); Kevin Davis, third, 110 hurdles (15-0); Charles Pickett, third, 100 dash (13-8); Dan Coats, fifth, 1,600 run (4:43-9); Fermon Tate, third, 800 run (2:00-65).

**Harrison girls:** Debi Hicks, shot put (29-10); Julieta Iarina, sixth, long jump (14-8.25); Tarni Dew, third, discus (101-0); 3,200 relay, third, 10:26-9; Lenaya Burrell, third, 100 hurdles (17-0); Angela Foster, sixth, 100 hurdles (17-5); Krystal Wise, third, 800 dash (3:34-0); 800 relay, third, 3:52-8; Shannon Bailey, sixth, 1,600 run (5:52-8); Lindsey Branch, fifth, 400 dash (1:05-3); Burrell, fourth, 300 hurdles (50-0); Amber Brown, fifth, 300 hurdles (51-1); Wise, third, 200 dash (27-9).

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Tom Grant, who won the 110 hurdles (14.9) and took second in the high jump and long jump. CC swept the top three places in the shot put, led by winner Dan Zimmerman, who threw 47-11.5 to best the field.

"This marked the first boys meet CC hadn't won since 1996, and

Magni gave U-D all the credit. "My hat is off to them; they ran great today," he said. "They rose to the occasion and had their best day today."

Brother Rice coach Bob Stark said his team's day was highlighted by a terrific run by the 800 relay team, which set a meet

record with a blazing time of 1:25.77. The record had stood since 1976, when Detroit DePorres ran a 1:28.2.

Rice's Jeff Allen defended his long jump title with a leap of 21 feet 8.5 inches, and teammate Marc Roualet became the first non-cross country runner to win

the 3,200 run with a time of 9:46.25.

"We knew we'd be gunning for third place," Stark said. "We had a lot of nice times by some of our younger guys, which was nice to see."

On the girls side, Divine Child was a team on a mission, and it proved it to everyone with a winning team score of 154 points. Farmington Hills Mercy took second with 115.

Mercy coach Gary Servais said the Falcons were clearly the

favorites going into the meet, and they lived up to their advance billing.

"They get points everywhere," Servais said. "We had a couple of our freshmen run their personal best times, so that gives us something to look forward to."

Whitney Johnson had a heckuva day for us, and Alexandria Marshall came back from an injury to run the 300 and 400."

Johnson broke her own school record and nearly set a meet record in the 300 hurdles with a

winning time of 45.4. The meet record remains 45.3 by Paulette Bryant of Southgate Aquinas in 1994.

Marshall edged Johnson for the win in the 200 and was also the only runner in the field to break one minute in the 400, winning with a time of 59.34.

Ladywood's day was highlighted by a great performance by senior Alexis Noel, who won the high jump (5-6) and long jump (18-0), the latter jump being the best in Observerland this season.

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