

Farmington drops opening track meet

The Farmington High School track team knows how Miller Jim Ryan felt when there was an accident and he fell in the Munich Olympics.

Farmington needed a victory in the last event to win its opening meet of the season against Waterford Mott. But the 440 relay team of Hands, Hill, B. Ratliff and Neimecz had an accident on the first exchange and a runner stumbled, allowing Mott's relay team to win the race and the meet, 65-58.

"We did well in the distance events," said Farmington Coach Gerald Young. "But we lost all three relays, the sprints and the hurdles. We did better than anticipated in the field events."

Farmington took three out of four first places in the field events. Kevin Ratliff won the pole vault with a vault of 10'6". Marling took the shot put with a toss of 46'9", and John Hands took first in the high jump with a 5'6".

In the track events, the Falcons won only three races. Gutierrez won the 800 run with a time of 2:10.6, distance star Mike McGuire won the mile with a time of 4:43.6 and Bruce Taylor took the two-mile in 10:11.

"We thought our sprinting and our distance runners were our strong point, but Mott blitzed us," Young said. "Their sprinters were really tough. It was a good meet, a close one. It was cold, too. Real nasty. The cold definitely affected the boys' performances."

"If it doesn't warm up soon, I'm going to sell the track program for the first place ticket to Florida."

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Most valuable

Birmingham's Herb Orvis was honored recently as the Detroit Lions' Most Valuable Defensive Player for 1973. Orvis is pictured above (left) receiving a clock-trophy from West Bloomfield's Eddie Khayat, Detroit's defensive line coach. The setting was Wednesday's Detroit Sports Broadcasters Association weekly luncheon. A 6-2, 250-pounder, Orvis came out of the University of Colorado, where he twice was an All-America choice.

In MSA baseball

Groves to be reckoned with

By MICHAEL KERN

If experience means anything at all in high school baseball, Birmingham Groves should be a force to be reckoned with in this year's Metro Suburban Association (MSA) race.

Coach Dave Grottschalk has several players returning from a team that went 15-8 last season. The Falcons' 7-4 league mark left them tied for second place with Bloomfield Hills Lahser behind MSA leader Royal Oak Dondero.

Leading the contingent of returning veterans is senior center-fielder Mickey Siegel. After winning all-league honors as a sophomore, Siegel was hampered by injuries last season and his performance fell off sharply.

GROTTSCHALK is expecting a good comeback year from Siegel, whom he calls "one of the best defensive outfielders I've ever had."

Groves has another all-league returner in pitcher Carey Braha. The Falcons' southpaw posted a 5-3 record last year, and is being depended upon to resume his role as Grottschalk's ace hurler.

Braha's batterymate will most likely be junior Todd Friesner who stepped into the starting catcher role midway through last season. From Friesner on, the Groves infield looks pretty solid.

SENIOR STEVE TURNER, a .273 hitter last year, is being moved from his old third base position to either second base or the outfield. Filling the vacancy at third will be senior Paul Rzepka, an outstanding defensive player.

Rich Farrell, a .288 hitter, will be returning at shortstop, and Bob Fregolle, a junior with good speed, will hold down second base or an outfield spot.

Back again to handle first base chores is Don Henderson, along with back-up man Tim Storch. Henderson and Farrell will also be stepping in for pitching assignments.

SENIORS BRUCE Kennedy, a pitcher, outfielder, and first baseman, and Paul Coughenour, an infielder, should provide Grottschalk with the kind of depth a contender needs.

Grottschalk is also looking for sophomore Dean Turner, who has already excelled in hockey and football, to show potential as an outfielder or pitcher.

In addition, Grottschalk says he's banking on transfer student Gregg Iffinger, a left-hander, to help bolster the pitching rotation.

"Overall, I think we're capable of having a good ballclub," said Grottschalk, as he prepares for his 12th year as coach at Groves.

DEFENDING CHAMP Dondero will be the team to beat in the MSA, according to Grottschalk.

"We're conceding nothing to them, though," he added. "They lost their top pitcher, and the league will have much better balance this year."

Weather permitting, the Falcons will open their season at



Carey Braha, Groves pitcher. (By ART EMANUEL, Staff Photographer)

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MIS sets cutbacks

In a press conference last week, Bloomfield Hills' Roger S. Penske, president of Michigan International Speedway (MIS), made several announcements relating to the current energy situation.

Penske announced the following cutbacks in order to comply with the National Energy Office request for a 25 per cent reduction in energy consumption:

- A 22 per cent reduction in practice and qualifying time for NASCAR Events.
- A reduction in the starting field for all stock car races from 40 cars to 36.
- Allocation of 30 gallons of fuel per entry for practice and qualification for all stock car events. This is a reduction of 33 per cent from the base year.
- Allocation of 55 gallons of methanol fuel per entry for practice and qualification. This is a 30 per cent cutback for the base year usage.
- Allocation of fuel for the race is based on a 1.8 mile per gallon figure. This will reduce fuel consumption by 30 per cent for the USAC Events.
- The total reduction in fuel usage for 1974 is 34 per cent.

Penske went on to say that although the cutbacks did not include a 10 per cent reduction in race distance, he would continue to monitor the energy situation, and if necessary this reduction would be included in MIS plans.

Carney, Wood top tourney

Oakland Hills Country Club concluded its 1974 Couples Paddle Tennis Tourney last week.

Championship bracket titlists were Hugh Carney III and Cindy Wood; runners-up were Bill Bones and Jeanne Peak.

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