

Redskins, Falcons, Barons boast top runners

By MARVIN GOODWIN
Of The Oakland Press

For the past seven years, Milford and Rochester High have consistently fielded top-caliber girls cross country teams.

This season was no different as both schools captured their respective league titles and landed two runners apiece on the 1985 All-County girls cross country team.

Bloomfield Hills Andover was the only other school to land a pair of runners on the 10-girl squad.

Five of the top 10 finishers at the Class A state individual run were from Oakland County. Terese Lemanski of Milford and Laura Matson of Bloomfield Hills Andover made the team for the third straight year.

Here is a capsule look at the team:

Liz Lange, Birmingham Groves — Lange overcame an injury-plagued junior season last year with a gritty performance this fall. She was a consistent top 10 finisher in most of her meets, including the Dearborn Invitational (second), Oakland County (seventh), Holly Invitational (ninth), Grosse Pointe North (sixth), regional (fourth) and MSAA-SMA meets (fourth). She took sixth overall in the Class A individual run at state. Best time — 19:21.

Ruth Fellingham, Bloomfield Hills Andover — She's small and petite, but a formidable competitor. Fellingham improved greatly from last season, and was one of the leading runners in the Southeastern Michigan Association. She took eighth in regionals, was 10th in the SMA-MSAA meet, league runnerup and took 10th in the Class A state individual run. Best time — 19:27.

Laura Matson, Bloomfield Hills

Andover — Two years ago as a sophomore, Matson took second in the Class A state individual run. Two years later, she added another second-place finish in the state individual run. In-between, the tall senior won 23 straight races — not including a September triangular meet where she didn't finish because of illness — set an unofficial national prep record in the 1600-meter run in track, and established herself as one of the top prep runners in Michigan high school history. More than 50 colleges have already contacted her, but she's yet to choose a school. Best time — 17:50.

Holly Spohn, Bloomfield Hills Lahser — Only a sophomore, Spohn demonstrated that she has a promising future in running. She broke the school record in winning the Oakland County freshman-sophomore meet, was regional runnerup, took third in the MSAA meet and sixth in the Oakland County varsity meet. A hard worker, Spohn capped her season with a fifth-place finish in the Class A state individual run. Best time — 18:58.

Kathleen McInnis, Clarkston — McInnis, a two-time All-County pick, was unbeaten in dual meets and won meet titles at the West Bloomfield Invitational, Greater Oakland Activities League meet and Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard meet. The junior runner took third in regionals, third in the Oakland County meet and seventh in the Class A state individual run. Best time — 19:20.

Terese Lemanski, Milford — One of a pair of three-time All-County selections this season, Lemanski again led the Redskins to an

unbeaten dual-meet season and championships in the Kensington Valley Conference, Oakland County and regional meets. A consistent top 10 finisher, the junior runner was league runnerup, fifth at Oakland County, fifth in regionals, second at the Oxford Invitational and sixth at the Shrine Invitational. She finished 17th in the Class A state team run race. Best time — 19:15.

Carrie Pickl, Milford — In her first year of varsity competition, the freshman was ninth in the Oakland County meet, seventh in the KVC meet, fifth in the Holly Invitational, third in the Oxford Invitational, and 27th in the Class A state team run race as the Redskins' second-best runner. Best time — 19:44.

Carolann Fike, Rochester — After last year's performance, Fike was a longshot for this year's All-County team. But the junior runner prevailed through hard work. Fike was league runnerup, took ninth in regionals, 12th in the Oakland County meet and was 21st in the Class A state team run. Best time — 19:55.

Kim Moffatt, Rochester — Moffatt was not only the Falcons' top runner, but few other area runners could challenge her. She won league and regional championships, was runnerup in the Oakland County and SMA-MSAA meets, took fourth in the West Bloomfield Invitational and won the Oxford Invitational title. She finished 10th in the Class A state team run. Best time — 19:11.

Mary Gregorius, Troy Athens — Gregorius upheld the Red Hawks' tradition of fine runners. The senior's best outing was a third-place finish in the Royal Oak Shrine Invitational.

All-County Girls Cross Country



Liz Lange
Groves



Ruth Fellingham
Andover



Laura Matson
Andover



Holly Spohn
Lahser



K. McInnis
Clarkston



Terese Lemanski
Milford

She took eighth in the West Bloomfield Invitational, fifth in the Oxford Invitational, ninth in regionals and capped her season with an 18th-place finish in the Class A state individual run. Best time — 19:32.

ALL-COUNTY SECOND TEAM — Barb Brouns (Berkley); Debbie Burson (Birmingham Seaholm); Nicole Jelley (Farmington); Jill Hoye (Milford); Cheryl Leitch and Nancy Conlen (Oxford); Amber Crawford (Rochester); Nancy Splete (Rochester Adams); Colleen Yuhn (Walled Lake Western); Katie Murphy (West Bloomfield).

ALL-COUNTY HONORABLE MENTION — Kate Pampreen (Bloomfield Hills Lahser); Bonnie Strecker (Farmington); Kerry Wolcott, Nancy Nielson, Becky Lamb (Milford); Dawn Pratt (Rochester); Shelley Bennett and Nancy Warnica (Rochester Adams); Amy Saunders (Royal Oak Kimball); Carol Diederich (Troy).



Carrie Pickl
Milford



Carolann Fike
Rochester



Kim Moffatt
Rochester



Mary Gregorius
Troy Athens

Balawajder's a legend

Gene Balawajder just keeps piling on new firsts. This year, the Redskins finished their first undefeated season in school history and won the tough Kensington Valley Conference for the second straight year. Since 1978, Balawajder, this year's Oakland Press girls cross country Coach of the Year, has coached his teams to four league championships or co-championships and three regional titles.



Balawajder

— Marvin Goodwin

SECOND TEAM ALL-COUNTY

— Ed Hickey (Birmingham Brother Rice); Paul Quick (Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook); Jim Huff (Bloomfield Hills Lahser); Jeff Toretta (Clarkston); Ken Osmun (Holly); Phil Van Hull (Lakeland); Tom Royce (Milford); Joe Hodson (Rochester); Jim Moore (Royal Oak Kimball); Tom Frey (West Bloomfield).

HONORABLE MENTION ALL-COUNTY

— Ken Kimble (Birmingham Brother Rice); Troy Radell (Holly); Tim Topolinski (Orchard Lake St. Mary); Scotty Anderson (Pontiac Northern); Doug Goudie (Rochester); Doug McKibbin and Jeff Lemmon (Rochester Adams); Franklin Wilkerson (Southfield); Neal Deford (Southfield-Lathrup); Jeff Madsen (Walled Lake Central); Chris Lanter (West Bloomfield).