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$708.00	Lawson Loveseat, orange/olive quilted floral	$599
$124.00	Olive Twill Ottoman, 24" dia.	$49
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$708.50	Folding Bar and 2 Bar Stools	$499

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Prep season begins soon

Baseball coaches are optimistic

By TOM BAER

Seldom are Michigan Aprils conducive to spring training in any outdoor sport, especially baseball.

But, despite the cold and damp weather which keeps the high school players indoors, the baseball coaches at the three Farmington high schools are loaded with the usual pre-season optimism as their teams prepare for their opening games. North Farmington opens on Thursday with a home double header against Highland Park. Farmington Harrison has an April 20 opener at neighboring Farmington High.

Coach Richard Roy's Farmington High team finished last season with a 15-6 overall record and a 7-3 mark in the Inter Lakes League, good for second place behind Livonia Stevenson. Roy feels he has the nucleus of another winning team with seven experienced players from last year.

"We should hit pretty well and show some good defense, especially in the outfield," Roy said. "Pitching could be our weak spot. We have two pretty fair pitchers but when you play those double headers, you're bound to run short of arms."

Farmington will have an all-stater, Randy Meier, in its lineup. Last season, Meier, an outfielder and pitcher, batted .493 overall and .576 in the ILL. "He's a smart player and very coachable. In addition to his batting eye, he has good speed and a good arm."

Some other Farmington returnees, all seniors, are second baseman Rick Milhizer, third baseman Dick Radatz, shortstop Mark Murray, and outfielder Rob Patrick. Terry Hall and Bill Philip, will share the catching duties.

Farmington has a promising right handed pitcher in Kevin Delp, a junior who compiled a 5-2 won-lost record and turned in a no-hitter last season.

FARMINGTON HAS five non-league games before it opens its ILL season on April 29 at Waterford Township. "I would think Waterford would have a good team this year," Roy said. "They used some underclassmen last year and finished about .500. Stevenson will be tough, too. They have a real good baseball program."

At Farmington Harrison, coach John Herrington believes his team can improve on last year's 14-8 overall record. Harrison had a 5-5 record in the Western Six League and finished in a second-place tie behind Plymouth Canton.

"We think we'll have a pretty good ball club," Herrington said. "We have only three seniors, but we have some pretty good juniors who played a lot last season."

Herrington is enthusiastic about his pitching crew, which he calls "the best pitching staff we've ever had at Harrison." The two aces are senior right hander Gregg Mathiak and junior right hander Bret Homovec.

"They're both excellent pitchers," Herrington said. "Homovec is mostly a fastball pitcher, and Mathiak is a good control pitcher with a good curve ball."

Senior Chris Kallgren and junior Fred Blackmer also have some pitching experience and will be in the lineup between starts. Kallgren is an all-league shortstop, and Blackmer could be the starting catcher.

Farmington Observer
SPORTS
2A(F) Monday, April 11, 1977

Mark Purcell, a senior second baseman, is beginning his third year on the Harrison varsity. Two promising juniors are utility man Al Shay and outfielder Al Goniwich.

"WE SHOULD have a good infield," Herrington said. "Our questions marks would be out outfield, catching and hitting. I think we have good hitting, but we lost 900 points when we graduated Paul Rogind (an all-state catcher) and Kyle Krupsky (an outfielder)."

Harrison begins its Western Six League season on April 25 at home against Livonia Churchill. "Churchill and Plymouth Canton should be the strong teams in our league," Herrington said. "Churchill has some fine pitching back, and Canton has an excellent baseball program."

Jerry Maxwell, who is beginning his second year as North Farmington's baseball coach, hasn't lost his enthusiasm for the game. He optimistic about his team's chances this season despite its 7-13 overall record last year.

"I shouldn't have any major weaknesses," Maxwell said. "I have some positions I'm concerned about, but I have the talent. I have the kids who can play ball. According to last year's averages, I have some good hitters. I have a little speed and more pitching than I've had in the past."

SENIOR TOM Meggas, an outfielder, batted .420 last year, and was an all-Northwest Suburban League pick. Catcher Gus Patek, also a senior, batted .307. Right handed pitchers Mark Bentley and Mike Thomas were promising hurlers and so slouches at the plate, either. Both batted over .300.

North has some newcomers. Barry Balles, a junior transfer from Oak Park, is a left handed pitcher and an outfielder. Greg Hughes, a junior who spent last season at Detroit Cody, can pitch and play the infield. Mark Thompson, a junior shortstop, look good on North's reserve team last year.

North Farmington opens its Northwest Suburban League season on April 20 at Thurston High. The NSL has become known for its strong baseball teams.

"The league's always tough," Maxwell said. "You can have a good team and still get blasted. Livonia Franklin, which was in the top 10 in the state last year, always seems to come up with a good team. And I expect Thurston to have an improved team this year."

Baseball schedules

FARMINGTON HIGH BASEBALL

VARSITY SCHEDULE—April 20—at Farmington Harrison, 4 p.m. April 23—at Redford Union (DH, noon). April 26—at Southfield-Lathrup 4 p.m. April 28—Highland Park 4 p.m. April 29—at Waterford Township, 4 p.m. April 30—at Birmingham Groves (DH), 1 p.m. May 2—Livonia Stevenson, 4 p.m. May 4—at Walled Lake Central 4 p.m. May 6—Milford Lakeland, 4 p.m. May 9—at Pontiac Northern 4 p.m. May 11—Waterford Township, 4 p.m. May 13—at Livonia Stevenson, 4 p.m. May 16—Walled Lake Central, 4 p.m. May 18—at Milford Lakeland, 4 p.m. May 20—Pontiac Northern, 4 p.m. May 23—at Northville High, 4 p.m. May 28—Predistrict game 4 p.m. May 31—at Walled Lake Western 4 p.m. June 4—District. June 11—Regional.

NORTH FARMINGTON BASEBALL

VARSITY SCHEDULE—April 14—Highland Park (DH), noon. April 19—Northville High 4 p.m. April 20—at Redford Thurston 4 p.m. April 22—at Livonia Stevenson, 3:45 p.m. April 25—Livonia Franklin, 4 p.m. April 27—at Westland John Glenn, 4 p.m. April 29—Garden City East 4 p.m. May 2—Redford Thurston, 4 p.m. May 4—Dearborn Edsel Ford, 4 p.m. May 6—at Livonia Franklin, 4 p.m. May 9—Westland John Glenn, 4 p.m. May 11—at Garden City East, 4 p.m. May 13—at Redford Thurston, 4 p.m. May 18—Livonia Franklin, 4 p.m. May 20—at Westland John Glenn, 4 p.m. May 23—at Birmingham Groves (DH), 1 p.m. May 25—Garden City East, 4 p.m. May 26—at Farmington High 4 p.m. May 28—Predistrict game 4 p.m. May 31—Farmington Harrison, 4 p.m. June 4—District. June 11—Regional.

FARMINGTON HARRISON BASEBALL

VARSITY SCHEDULE—April 20—Farmington High 4 p.m. April 22—at Waterford Mott, 4 p.m. May 23—Birmingham Groves (DH, 1 p.m. April 25—Livonia Churchill, 4 p.m. April 27—at Walled Lake Western, 4 p.m. May 2—Northville High 4 p.m. May 4—at Plymouth Canton, 4 p.m. May 3—Redford Union (DH), 3 p.m. May 9—Waterford Mott, 4 p.m. May 11—at Livonia Churchill, 4 p.m. May 12—Southfield-Lathrup 4 p.m. May 14—Walled Lake Central (DH), 1 p.m. May 16—Walled Lake Western, 4 p.m. May 18—at Northville High 4 p.m. May 20—Plymouth Canton 4 p.m. May 24—at St. Marys 4 p.m. May 26—at Highland Park 4 p.m. May 28—Predistrict game 4 p.m. May 31—at North Farmington 4 p.m. June 4—District. June 11—Regional.

Hatch places in two events

Jordan Hatch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hatch of Farmington Hills, placed in two relay events in the NCAA II swimming and diving championships held at Youngstown State University recently.

Hatch, a sophomore at Oakland University, was on the fourth-place 800-freestyle relay team and the third-place 400-free style relay, team.

OU finished fifth among 35 schools competing in the three day even with 134 points. First place went to California State University-Northridge, which accumulated 326 points.

Hatch is a graduate of North Farmington High School

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Adolph H. Grulke has been selected MAN OF THE MONTH in the Zack N. Pokley Agency of Aid Association for Lutherans. Adolph provided outstanding service to area Lutherans during the month of March.

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