

North repays baseball debt

By TOM BAER

Last season North Farmington's excellent baseball team had hopes for a long state tournament run. But West Bloomfield, another fine team, ended those plans by beating the Raiders in a pre-district game.

Last Monday the two north-suburban prep baseball powers met again, this time for a non-tourney game. And it was payback time for North Farmington.

North, using two unearned runs and a three-hit pitching performance by Ron Fredericks, whipped West Bloomfield, 2-0, on the Raiders' field. The win boosted North to 11-3 overall. West Bloomfield is 12-2.

North coach Jerry Maxwell wasn't forgetting what happened in 1978. "I told the guys before the game, 'Look, we've got five games this week. One is a league game, one is a rival game against Farmington and two are tournament games. This is the least important game,'" Maxwell said.

"But I told them I want to win this game — just because of last year." Fredericks, a senior righthander, has a 5-1 record. He went all the way, threw 81 pitches, struck out one and walked two.

"He throws straight overhand and he was getting his fast ball down around the knees," Maxwell said. "He's not a great curve ball pitcher, but he was getting his curve in the strike zone."

North scored a run in the first inning. Ron Nutter singled, stole second, took third on the catcher's overthrow and scored on Tom Godwin's ground out. In the North sixth, Rocky Thompson reached on an error, stole second, took third on a wild pitch and scored on Godwin's sacrifice fly.

North's victory overshadowed a fine pitching performance by West Bloomfield's Steve Subay, who had won four straight games this spring. Subay gave up just four hits, struck out three and walked one.

"Subay seemed to be having a little trouble with his curve, although he only walked one," Maxwell said. "But we were hitting Subay. We had some real shots that were caught."

West Bloomfield never got a runner past second base.

North has a Northwest Suburban League game at Livonia Franklin on Tuesday (May 29) at 3:30 p.m.

SOUTHFIELD-LATHRUP 4 FARMINGTON HIGH 3

Farmington High wasted a fine pitching performance by John Dunn last Monday as Southfield-Lathrup overcame the Falcons, 4-3, in nine innings of the first game of a non-league double header at the Southfield Civic Center. Lathrup won the nightcap, 4-3.

Dunn went the distance in the first game, allowing five hits, striking out 10 and walking none. Farmington, which had five hits, had a 3-0 lead until the seventh inning, when Lathrup scored three runs. Scott Stark singled home the winning run in the ninth. Mark Kost, who pitched two innings of relief, got the victory.

In the second game, losing pitcher Larry Mendelson went all the way, striking out five, walking two and giving up seven hits. Once again, Farmington built up a 3-0 lead until Lathrup came back with four runs in the sixth. Dave Hall had two of Farmington's six hits off winning pitcher Frank Spier.

Farmington has a 7-10 overall record.

HARRISON 4 FARMINGTON 0

Mike Tetreault, a junior righthander, pitched a no-hitler last Tuesday to lead Farmington Harrison past city-rival Farmington High, 4-0, in a non-league game at Harrison. The win put Harrison at 5-11 overall.

Tetreault struck out 10 and walked one. All four Farmington hits were singles. Harrison scored three runs in the first inning. Dale Sklar singled and advanced to second when Pete Thomson was hit by a pitch. Tom Cundy then singled to knock in Sklar. Thomson and Cundy scored on a wild pickoff move to second base.

Harrison completed the scoring in the second inning when Mike Kourakis tripled to right field and scored on a bad throw back.

Losing pitcher Greg Kuhnlein went the distance, giving up seven hits, fanning 11 and walking none.



North Farmington's Rocky Thompson slides past West Bloomfield catcher Bruce Bufmeyer. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

State track finals coming up

Mercy lands 2nd in regional

By TOM BAER

Thanks to a strong showing in last Saturday's regional, Farmington Our Lady of Mercy will have another large group at the state Class A girls' track finals June 2 at Brighton High School.

Can coach Bob Kirkland's Mercy club better its ninth-place finish in last year's state meet?

"We're going to take a stronger team than last year's — and it's going to be a struggle to break into the top 10," said Kirkland, now in his fourth year at the all-girl parochial school in Farmington Hills. "The level of competition is just amazing this season."

Mercy, which seems headed for another Catholic League track title, finished second with 64 points in the regional meet at Farmington High. Detroit Mumford won the regional title with 103 points, and Livonia Stevenson was third with 51 3/4.

Athletes qualify for the state track finals by finishing in the top three in the regional events.

Mercy's best finish of the day came in the discus event, where junior Beth Bosse established a meet record with a toss of 112-2. Sherry West, another Mercy junior, won the 220-yard run with a :25.7 clocking.

Mercy junior Sue Higin-

len qualified in the two-mile run with a time of 11:46.6, good for second place. Teammate Michele Collins, a senior, took thirds in the mile run (5:19.7) and the 800-yard run (23.8).

IN ADDITION, all three Mercy relays qualified. The 800 relay (Cathy Bridges, Jeanette Duplessis, Kathie Whalen and West) placed second in 1:48.8. The 440 relay, composed of the same girls, took third in :50.4. Mercy's mile relay (Julie Basford, Carol Basford, Chris Dosmann and Bridges) finished third in 4:07.9.

Two other Farmington area girls — Farmington High's Julie Tadrazynski and North Farmington's Nancy Hughes, qualified for the state meet with good regional showings.

Tadrazynski, a junior, finished second in the long jump with a leap of 16-9/4 — almost a foot better than her previous best.

"She's been improving all season long but that's quite an improvement for one meet," said Farmington coach Ron Short. "She could improve on her steps a little and maybe go over 17 feet in the state meet."

Hughes, a sophomore, placed third in the shot put with a heave of 34-4. Some good non-scoring performances: Farming-

ton's Cheryl Lacey, who was competing despite a bone chip in her ankle, took fifth place in the discus at 97-6. Teammate Denise Germain landed fifth in the 220 hurdles at 32.3.

No Farmington Harrison girls qualified for the state meet. Harrison's best performance came in the 110 hurdles, where Terri Duckett went :16.7 to finish fourth.

In a non-league dual meet last Monday afternoon, Harrison defeated Farmington, 69-54. Linda Tremonti of Harrison won the 440 (:54.4) and the 220 (:27.7). Duckett and Germain tied in the 220 hurdles at :32.5. Duckett won the high jump at 5-4. Harrison is 4-4 with the victory. Farmington fell to 0-9.

West Bloomfield never got a runner past second base.



Mercy's Michele Collins qualified for the state finals in the mile and the half mile. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

On to finals for area pair

Only two Farmington-area trackmen — Farmington High's Jim Brancheau and Farmington Harrison's Johan Engholm — have qualified for the state Class A boys' track finals June 2 at Flint Northwestern High School.

Brancheau and Engholm qualified for state with good showings at the Class A regional meet last Saturday at Farmington. Trackmen qualify for state by finishing in the top three in the regional events.

Brancheau, a senior pole vaulter, placed second in that event by going 13-3. Redford Union's Paul Bahls won the event with a meet-record 14-5 1/2.

"Jim did an excellent job," said Farmington coach Dave Catherman. "He took only two vaults because he's had a chest injury. He's a very fundamental, self-disciplined vaulter, and I'm very proud of him."

Engholm, also a senior, is a foreign-exchange student from Sweden. A standout on Harrison's cross country team, he took second place in the regional mile run with a time of 4:23.8.

"He's a tough competitor and he'll be looking forward to the state finals," said Harrison coach Bob Sutter.

Surprisingly, no North Farmington trackmen qualified. North managed three fourth places in the regional: Mark Blehl (155-2 in the discus), Bob Mordean (15-4, pole vault), and George Houtteker (48-11, shot put). North's Paul Welch finished sixth in the mile run at 4:31.9.

"No doubt about it: We were as flat as the track we were running on," said North Farmington assistant coach Ed Davis.

Detroit Redford won the regional title, scoring 68 points, 18 more than runnerup Detroit Mumford. Redford Bishop Borgess was third with 45, Detroit Catholic Central had 44, Livonia Stevenson 33 and Southfield-Lathrup 31.

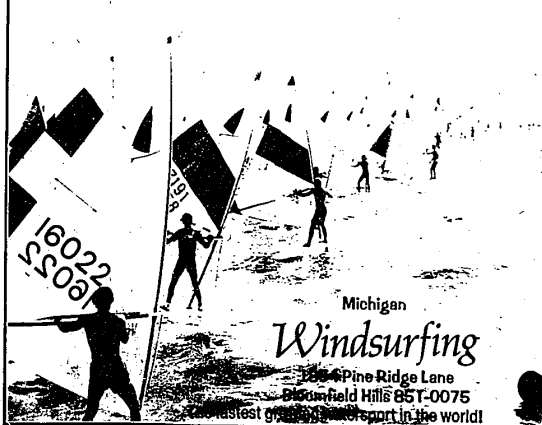
North Farmington finished 15th with 13 points. Farmington landed 17th with 10 1/2 points, and Harrison was 18th with nine.

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