

# Catching a concern for North

Continued from Page 1

So, the NSL title is in the bag, right? No, sir.

**QUESTION MARKS** make Maxwell taper his optimism with subtle but well-taken caution.

The No. 1 question mark is catching. Eric Carrier, a three-year standout for the Raiders, left that question mark when he graduated last summer. Carrier hit .550 for North last year.

Maxwell said that sophomore Mike Rudin and junior Scott Knoll were the front-runners for the position.

"Neither has any real experience," Maxwell said. "Right now, I'd say Rudin would be my starting catcher. He's big and he's strong and he's going to be an outstanding catcher some day. But, for now we are going to have to go

## baseball

through some growing pains."

Another question mark is the Raiders' depth. Draper, Chwalk, Sonbay and Engel will be counted on to handle most of the pitching chores. They also have starting roles in the field. Maxwell's problem is: Who plays the field when one of these guys is pitching?

If the season started today, here's how the Raiders would be aligned: catcher, Rudin; first base, Chwalk; second base, Tom Cotter; third base, Sonbay; shortstop, Engel; left field, Mark Carrier; center field, Draper; right field, Weyher.

Another question mark is junior Dale Elenbaas. Elenbaas, a pitcher, looked sharp pitching for the varsity as a freshman. Last year, however, he didn't regain his form. Maxwell said he will "wait and see" how Elenbaas performs this year. If he can come through, it would take a big load off the other four pitcher/fielders.

**THE RAIDERS** finished 11-9 last season, and as Maxwell said, "a long way from first place." He hopes this 1984 team will recapture the NSL title

It lost seven in 1980.

"We lost seven games by one run last year, and six of those were league games," Maxwell said. "You know why we lost so many games? Mental mistakes. My teams don't usually make many mental mistakes but, last year, we made a bunch."

Maxwell said the NSL title is up for grabs.

"The league is very evenly balanced; There's never a soft opponent. Garden City won it last year. They may have lost some people, but I'm sure they'll be tough. And Livonia Franklin — I really can't tell you who's going to win it," Maxwell said.

Is North going to win it? "You're damn right we are," Maxwell said. "I told the kids that we can win it, but whether they go out and do it is another story."

## Hawk, Falcon baseball previews Monday

### sport shorts

#### • SLO-PITCH TIME

Ed's round robin slo-pitch softball tournament is slated for May 11, 12 and 13 at Massey Field on Plymouth Road at Haggerty in Plymouth.

The tournament, which is open to all teams regardless of city, carries a \$120 entry fee. The fee pays for umpires, fields, awards and balls. All teams are guaranteed three games.

For more information call or write to Ed Wertanen, 635 South Main, Plymouth, MI, 48170-455-8289. Or, call Ralph Martin at 459-1187.

#### • TRIATHLONING

The Total Runner Store will be conducting a free clinic on triathloning, the triple fitness sport, at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 31 at the Total Runner Store, 212 E. Washington, Ann Arbor.

Charlie Blanchard, two-time division winner and three-time Michigan top finisher at the Hawaiian Ironman Triathlon, will be the featured speaker. He will give hints on how to train for a triathlon, as well as tips on bicycling, cross-training, equipment and workout programs.

No reservations are required. Call 769-5016 for more information.

#### • CAMP DIRECTORS SOUGHT

The Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department and Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge Campus will offer a series of sports camps beginning the week of June 25. The camps are designed for middle-school- and high-school-age youngsters.

Camps will be offered in nine sports, and qualified directors are needed to run each camp. The sports are: base-

ball, cheerleading, fast-pitch softball, fitness and conditioning, golf, running/cross country, soccer and tennis.

Qualified individuals interested in directing a camp should submit an application to the parks and rec office, 31555 11 Mile, by 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 23.

Questions about the camps can be directed to the parks and rec office, 471-6115, or OCC's physical education department, 471-7555.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Jon Sonbay will pitch, play third base and hopefully hit for power for the North Farmington baseball team this spring.

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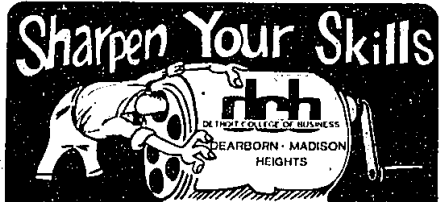
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