

Quick start

Farmington Legion team 5-2

The Farmington American Legion baseball team is off to its best start in four years.

After sweeping a pair from Clawson Monday, 7-3 and 13-1, Farmington's record stood at 5-2. "The pitching has been surprising," said coach Randy Meier. "They are really doing the job. Against Clawson our guys played extremely well, they really came together. That was a pretty good team we beat, they have nine Brother Rice players and Rice was No. 2 in the state."

Farmington High product Art Eastman shut down Clawson in the first game. He scattered seven hits and allowed one earned run. Steve Cody rapped a pair of hits to lead the offense. Mike Gabrielle hit a two-run double and Dave Mote

baseball

knocked in two with a single. Gabrielle was the recipient of a ton of offense in game two. The left-hander from Walled Lake allowed just two hits over five innings. He also knocked in three runs with three hits. Dave Barton had three hits and Paul Newitt had two.

ON SUNDAY, Farmington split a pair with Royal Oak. Royal Oak pitcher Dave Harman fired a five inning no-hitter at Farmington in game one, winning 16-0.

Farmington, behind the four-hit

pitching of Brent Daniels, took game two 3-2. Cody and Joe Bob Wenson had two hits apiece, but the big hit was supplied by Mote. With two out in the sixth inning and Farmington down 2-1, Mote slapped a two-run single to give Farmington the win.

Farmington gave a game away last Friday night. Defending league champs Ferndale took advantage of six Farmington errors in a 3-2 win.

Gabrielle pitched a strong game. He scattered five hits and fanned nine. Barton got two of Farmington's three hits.

The team faces a busy weekend. They play a single game with Auburn Hills Friday, two with Birmingham-Troy Saturday and two with Redford Sunday.

Hills racer debuts at Grand Prix race

By C.J. Rieck
Staff writer

Tim Taylor has been racing for 16 years as an amateur. On Saturday, he'll open his professional auto racing career.

Not that Taylor is a grizzled, old veteran beyond his prime trying to prove he can still race with the best of them. Taylor is only 22. He began racing quarter-midgets at age 6.

A Farmington Hills native and Farmington Harrison graduate, Taylor will enter his car — a 1982 Pontiac Trans Am — in Saturday's Trans Am series race, one of several supporting events to the Detroit Grand Prix.

"I've been running this type of car, but in a lower level of racing," Taylor said. He has raced in the National SCCA Division at Waterford Hills Race Course since 1981.

POINT IS, Taylor knows the car but acknowledges that it will be a step up in competition. The Trans Am series draws some major financial sponsors. For now, Taylor has no sponsor, which puts severe limits on his chances.

"There are so many factory-

people in sports

backed teams that they'll be tough to keep up with," he admitted. "They have \$2 or \$3 million budgets. But I feel I can do well. The only difference between me and the guys up front is their budget."

By doing well, Taylor means completing the race. His experience against this caliber of competition and in this car is limited. He bought the car late last summer and has only raced it three times.

A rookie in a car he has raced in only three times, on a course he is unfamiliar with ("I'm going to take a ride around it Thursday night with a pace car driver, to see what it's like," Taylor said), sobers one's expectations.

"My No. 1 goal is to finish it," said Taylor, "because this is my first one. I've never raced in anything this professional. There weren't as many (entries) in the SCCA division. There might be 10 in my class."

SATURDAY'S FIELD may very well match the number of entries in the last Trans Am race at Sears Point, Calif. There were 38 cars entered. Of those, 21 finished, making Taylor's strategy simple.

"That tells you right there, half the game is just finishing," he said. "It's a 100-mile race, which is short for endurance but long for a sprint. It's kind of in between."

"I'd like to finish in the top 10. I think that would be good for me."

Taylor's Trans Am carries an eight-cylinder, 100-cubic inch engine. Car weight allowances are determined by the type of engine.

Other Trans Am competitors range from Mustangs and Corvettes to Porsches and Buicks. Engine sizes, too, differ, with some cars using carbureted eight cylinders while others have turbo-charged four cylinders.

Taylor's racing goals are well-defined: "Right now, I want to get a sponsor for this Trans Am series. Eventually, I'd like to get into CART racing."

How fast Taylor reaches his ultimate aim depends on how fast he can drive. In auto racing, speed and success run on the same track.

Holzer stays close to LCBL leaders

Mark Ritter's base hit in the sixth, scoring Martin Eddy, broke up Mark Coburn's no-hit bid, sparking Tom Holzer Ford to a three-run inning and a 5-1 victory Sunday over Redford Little Caesars in Livonia Collegiate Baseball League (LCBL) action Sunday at Capitol Park.

Eric Engel and Greg Ryba added RBI singles during the surge, all coming with two outs. Eddy then capped a two-run surge in the seventh with an RBI single.

Chris Stout, who scattered six hits over six innings, was the winning pitcher. He got relief help in the seventh from Farmington product Dan Zang, who struck out the side. Stout has allowed only one run in 12 innings.

In the second game of a double-header, Caesars and Tom Holzer battled to a 6-6 tie. The game was halted by a curfew.

Holzer held a 6-0 lead until the sixth when Caesars struck for six runs, chasing starter Troy Connor, who had given up only two hits through five innings.

Mike Koeski of Michigan State sparked the Caesars' comeback with a two-run single. Chris Looney led Caesars with two hits.

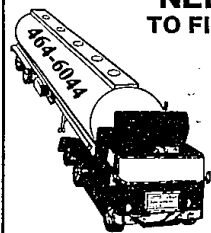
Scott Draper had two hits for Holzer, while Eddy clubbed his fourth homer of the year.

Both teams are tied for second place at 6-3-1, one point behind first place Livonia Adray, which is 7-3.

On Friday, Caesars traveled to West Bloomfield and came away with a 9-1 victory. Looney went 3-for-3 and Bob Capla went 2-for-4, including a triple. Rob McCamant went 2-for-3 and score three runs.

Winning pitcher Todd Mahaney scattered six hits and walked only one.

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All-Star

Rick Anderson, North Farmington grad, has been selected to compete with the Michigan All-Stars in the second annual Intra-State All-Star Classic Saturday, June 21, at the Saginaw Civic Center. The game pits the best high school seniors (Class of 1988) from Michigan and Iowa against each other.

golf

Locals tee off at state open

Randy Erskine will defend his Michigan Open golf title starting next Monday, with eight area golfers eager to take his crown.

The four-day, 72-hole affair will be held in Acme, just north of Traverse City, at the Bear, the Jack Nicklaus-designed championship course at the Grand Traverse Resort.

There is a record purse of \$55,000, with \$9,600 going to the winner of the 144-man field.

Erskine has won the title five times, including the last two years, and will be seeking to match Al Watrous' all-time record of six titles.

Hoping to stop him are the following area golfers and their tee times (the first time is for Monday, the second for Tuesday):

Richard Albright, Farmington Hills, 8:09, 12:48.
Christopher Rhodes, Redford, 8:27, 1:06.
Gordon Graham, Farmington Hills, 8:00, 12:39.
Robert Carron, Redford, 9:30, 2:09.
Ed Muir, Farmington Hills, 1:24, 6:45.
Ray Bole, Redford, 2:00, 9:21.
Chip Chamberlin, Plymouth, 1:33, 8:54.

Woodbrooke wins opener

The score went back and forth, but when the waves finally died down, the Woodbrooke Hills Swim Club had defeated Beechview 279-268 in the Northwest Suburban League season opener for both teams.

Karrie Kranz, Cindy Gramer, Scott Mayotte, Dard Lehmann, Mike Turney and Kevin Lee were double event winners for Woodbrooke.

Mandy Speer, Marcy Mulbarger, David Gers, Jennifer Rowe, Liz Worthen, Leslie Marus, Heather Stoneman, Keith Lee, Jody Harris, James Leslie, Laurie Oswald, Steve Turney and Chad Feldman also picked up wins for Woodbrooke.

For Beechview, Wendell Tucker, Michael Hoefflein, Dennis Sayles and Elizabeth Tucker each set club records.

Tucker and Christopher Leland each won two events. Other winners for Beechview were Scott Tucker, Kevin Eise, Andrea Hoefflein, Melissa Prendergast, Todd Farabee, Ken McIntyre, Danielle King, Chris Elliott, Mary Quinn, Catherine Tucker and Scott Farabee.

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