

# Hitting will be key for Hawks

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"He's one of our outstanding players," Herrington said. "We're definitely counting on his bat for run production."

Pitching, as well as defense, will be especially important since the Hawks will need to hold the opposition in check.

Senior right-hander Craig Murray is the top returning pitcher and figures to be the ace of the staff. Seniors Jason Lichtman and Steve Miller will play prominent pitching roles, and sophomore Gary Devine, the lone left-hander and the best junior varsity pitcher last year, will provide backup.

"I think we could be pretty good there," Herrington said, "but I don't know if it'll be exceptionally strong."

"Craig has good ability and can get the ball over the plate. He hasn't won a lot of varsity games, but he has a lot of experience."

Lichtman also will have major responsibilities in the field. He started at second base last year but will move to shortstop in place of graduated slugger Leo Devine, a key loss in terms of offense.

"WE KNOW he's got the glove," Herrington said. "Having played shortstop in the summer and being a pitcher, we know he has a strong arm and felt he was best to go to that position."

"We was a cornerback in football and a point guard in basketball, so we know he can take the pressure of the shortstop position."

Senior Jeff Skinner, an all-area

## Catholic Central wins pair from Benedictine

Well, there's no doubting Redford Catholic Central's pitching is in shape.

The Shamrocks opened their 1989 baseball season by blanking Detroit Benedictine twice, 8-0 and 1-0, Saturday at Benedictine. Keith Boryk batted the first four innings of the opener and got the win, allowing just one hit while walking four and striking out nine. Ryan Bell pitched the final three innings.

Paul Pirronello's three hits — including two doubles — and two runs batted in paced the offense. Brett Welling also had a double, two walks and two RBIs.

In the second game, Leo Hutchinson fired a three-hitter in shutting out Benedictine. He walked three and struck out 11.

The Shamrocks got their only run in the third. Tom Hill walked and went to third on an error by the third baseman, then scored on Hutchinson's ground out.

CC hosts University of Detroit High in a double-header starting at 3:45 p.m. today.

**'I think defensively we'll be good, and if the hitting comes through we'll be in pretty good shape.'**

— John Herrington  
Harrison baseball coach

tackle on the 13-0 football team, will start again at first base.

Either junior Brian Ellison or senior Jason Fox will get the starting nod at second, and senior Dave Najarian has been penciled in as the third-base starter. Fox and Najarian

are varsity veterans, and Ellison played for the JV team previously.

"(Skinner) had a great sophomore year and talked off a little bit as a junior," Herrington said, "but we're looking forward to having him back at first base."

## baseball

"He's got a little power, but he's mostly a spray hitter and hits the ball in the gaps. As a sophomore, he drove in a lot of runs."

Herrington thinks the Hawks will have a solid outfield with junior Mill Coleman, a two-time, all-state quarterback, anchoring the unit in center field. He will miss the first four games while on vacation with his family, however.

"HE HAS good range and great speed," Herrington said. "He has played some shortstop and third base, but because of his speed and savvy I think he'll be a good center fielder."

Senior Tim Horton will start again in left field, and his hitting looks as if it has improved, Herrington said. Senior Dan Justice and junior Ken Pellegrino are contending for the job in right field. Devine will start the season in center field during Coleman's absence.

Junior Sean Murray, who was selected the all-division designated hitter last year, is being counted on to meet some of the offensive needs for the Hawks, who have been to the state finals twice in this decade — as a Class B team in 1982 and as a Class A outfit in 1985.

"I think defensively we'll be good, and if the hitting comes through we'll be in pretty good shape," Herrington said.

ment finals before losing. Their 1987-88 season ended one win shy of the NCAA tournament.

Taylor might have helped get U-D ready this year. Instead, his own interests took center stage. Titan coach Ricky Byrdson confirmed Tuesday that Taylor won't be back. He is trying to transfer to a school in Florida, Byrdson said.

None of this is meant as a defense of the institutions involved. Amateur athletics are modern-day dinosaurs. The only true amateur sports are those with few supporters.

I don't believe a school suffers greatly when its basketball team loses. But the players do. And when one person endangers his teammates' future, it's selfish. It's unfortunate. And it weakens the foundation sports is built upon.



RANDY BORST/TATL photographer

John Herrington begins his 26th season of coaching high school baseball, the majority of them at Harrison.

# Gipp's legacy no longer idealized by all

WHATEVER HAPPENED to the Gipper? Don't tell me he left the White House and is retired in California. The immortal George Gipp, whom Ronald Reagan portrayed in one of his earlier careers, is long gone but hardly forgotten. He remains the epitome of sports, a legend, an ideal.

So what's happened?

Sport used to mean sacrifice for the team. Not in this age of stark realism, an age in which drugs, criminal abuse and an anything-for-money attitude have supplanted team goals, sportsmanship and the all-for-one belief that used to rule sports.

Examples surround us. Look no further than Ann Arbor, or maybe I should say Tempe, Ariz., or even Seattle, Wash. — just where is Bill Frierer now, anyway? The question is easily answered — nowhere. Associates of mine want to insert his mug next to the word "buffoon" in Webster's next dictionary.

UNFORTUNATELY, I'm certain



C.J. Risak

Frierer will always consider himself a success, even though he abandoned his team when it needed him most (or, perhaps as history proved, needed him least). That's too bad, because his take-care-of-me-first attitude is all too prevalent — at all levels of sport.

At Oakland University, the men's basketball team was fighting an uphill battle in the Great Lakes Conference. Ferris State was the target, a target which eluded the Pioneers. It didn't help that starting guard Tony Howard deserted late in the season.

Missed practices, dubious injuries, then a failure to make a team bus ended Howard's paid-for career at

OU. He can come back and play for the Pioneers, according to coach Greg Kampe, but not under scholarship.

Why would Howard cripple his team's chances for a title, and possible NCAA Division II tournament berth? When questioned, he offered nothing more than the entire episode was "a misunderstanding."

By whom? BRYAN WAULDRON was one of the heroes of Farmington Harrison's Class B football championship team. He was the goat of the Hawks' basketball campaign.

Wauldrone may be the best example of the disintegration of the team concept in sports. After all, Harrison's basketball team was among the top-ranked in the state. Then, just before the state tournament started, he quit the team after a disagreement with coach Mike Teachman.

According to Wauldrone, he left because he had a part-time job that conflicted with practice, and Teachman wouldn't give him a break. He needed the job to earn money for a

trip to Florida over spring break, and to pay for awards to adorn his football letter jacket.

But what about your teammates, Bryan? His answer: They understand.

EXAMPLE NO. 3 is Rick Taylor. The Plymouth Salem product was euphoric when given the opportunity to play NCAA Division I basketball at the University of Detroit two years ago.

Before his sophomore season concluded, he quit.

Taylor's circumstances might best compare to former U-M coach Frierer's. Neither was really needed. Indeed, Taylor would have probably been better off playing Division II, if court-time concerned him.

It's hard to convince high school kids of this. A contradiction is created. Success, young athletes are in-

structed, is the summation of hard work and determination. Being told you're not good enough, in spite of your work, is difficult to accept. Sometimes it never is.

Taylor's skills are limited. He lacks the speed, quickness and jumping ability to play Division I basketball on a full-time basis.

BUT HE COULD have contributed, if only by working hard in practice. Instead, he left a struggling team that was trying to prepare for the Midwestern Collegiate Conference tournament and took off for Florida.

The Titans' chances of winning the MOC tournament were slim, to be sure. But a year ago, they finished dead last in the conference, then advanced all the way to the tourna-

## Panther trackmen shine in defeat

Novi tripped up Redford Union, 87-49 in a boys track opener Tuesday, but RU showed it has a dynamic duo in Eric Sheppard and Chris Woodbeck.

Sheppard won the shot put (43-feet, 3-inches), discus (142-2) and high jump (6-1) events. Woodbeck also claimed three titles, placing first in the 100-meter dash (11.59), and the 200 dash (23.3) and the pole vault (13-0). RU didn't win any other individual events, but the Panthers 3,200 relay team of Sam Provenzo, Howie Brumfield, Marty Boyd and Keith Turnbull took first place in 8:54.15.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL'S Jason Belaire earned two second-place finishes Saturday at the Michigan State University Spartan Relays.

Belaire finished second in the high jump, clearing 6-6, and he also had a second-place finish in the 55-meter high hurdles, crossing the tape in 7.45. Churchill shut the hurdle relay team of Belaire, Ryan Polny, Chris Muzo and Scott Malcolmson was fifth (32.4).

The Chargers finished the meet with 18 points.

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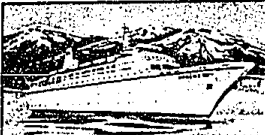
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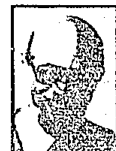
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