# Pony Orioles find recipe for success

By ANITA CRONE
The North Farmington/West
Bloomfield (NFWB) Pony American League has come up with a recipe for success in its first-place
Orioles.

Orioles.
To insure the winningest season in any NFWB division, take two managers, liberally sprinkle with 14 bailplayers, and unleast the mixture on any other learn on the NFWB circuit.

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The result is invariably an Oriole victory and the only unexpected twist is the score.

THE ORIOLES have triumphed 23 times in sandlot play this season, and have lost only once.

The lone defeat was at the hands

of Cranbrook's junior varsity team in an exhibition game. Since that time, the Orioles have

compiled 11 consecutive victories, seven of them by the mercy rule. Most of those victories can be directly traced to managers Francis Houttekier and John E. Allen. Houttekier and Allen have been co-managing for two years.

BEFORE THEN, Allen was the American Little League Baseball Commissioner in Buenos Aires, and Houttekier was managing

'The team enjoys playing baseball and they (the Orioles) enjoy winning baseball'

another NFWB division team.

Houttekier and Allen are scouting for next year's draft picks—
looking hard at the boys coming Houttekier said, "Bobut good loss through the NFWB program for "team players" who will be an asset on their roster next year.

"Superstars aren't as important as a good team player," Houttekier said. "If something happens to a superstar, then the team falls

"With team players, the entire team functions together and wins together."

HOUTTEKIER stresses enthusiasm and team play with his Orioles. The team chatters to give support to the batter, not the opposing pitcher.

And if an Oriole hits a homerun, the team comes out of the dugout to congratulate the hitter.

Aggressiveness and enthusiasm are the watchwords of Houttek-ier's team whether in practice or actually in a ball game.

In practice, Houttekier tries to catch the players napping and will often throw the ball to the player who is not alert.

"I DON"T HAVE to yell at the kid. He knows that he was napping and you can bet he doesn't fall asleep again." Houttekier said.

But Houttekier and his Orioles like to win.

"The team enjoys playing base-ball and they (the Orioles) enjoy winning baseball."

The boys on the Orioles have the drive necessary to be champions.
They have all been hand-picked by
the managers.

"I'VE WATCHED all of them come up through the NFWB program," Houttekier said, "and I don't think you'll find a finer group of ballplayers."

When Houttekier is not practic-ing with his team or playing in a game, he is often out scouting the other teams.

He has a list of 35 boys that he is watching now, with the hope of building them into a winning team

Next season Houttekier and Al-len hope to have a Colt and a Pony team to coach, using this year's Pony team as a nucleus.

"The boys we have now will teach the new kids," Houttekier said. "Ideally, our boys will be al-ert, have the drive, and become winners."



Co-manager Frank Houttekier makes a point in guiding North Farmington-West Bloomfield American League Orioles

### Cage clinic at Harrison

Area basketball players are invited to attend a free clinic at farmington Harrison High School on Wednesday (July 17) from 1-2:30 p.m. Sponsored by Pro

Don Adams. Harrison is located at

## Second baseman Sam Morgon makes a tag on sliding eorge Majoros, with backup defensive support from

Jim Morgan slides into third graphed by Douglas Bauman)

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George Majoros, with shortstop Mike Benedict

#### Port Huron outslugs Girl Stars

A sixth-inning rally by South-field's Girls' All Star team fell short and the Southfield girls dropped a 13-10 decision to the Port Huron Girl Stars last Sunday at the Civic Center.

Southfield completed its first year of girls' hardball by enter-taining the Port Huron squad. The game marked the first intercity girls' hardball matchup.

gris nardball materup.

Both teams scored most of their runs in clumps. Southfield exploded for three gpns in the third inning and four more in the fifth. Port Huron also scored most of its runs in the third and fifth innings.

Gloria Sosa wielded a heavy bat for the Southfield girls. She smacked a three-run homer, the only home run of the game. Miss Sosa also doubled to score another run for the losers.

In one exciting play, Southfield catcher Karen Blumenstein robbed Port Huron's Chris Ledsworth of a run when the Port Huron player was out trying to stretch a triple into a four bagger.

Miss Blumenstein started on the mound for Southfield. She was re-lieved by manager Fred Abele after she walked in a run in the third inning. Kelly Walsh finished the pitching chores.

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