

Waterford showdown on Monday

Farmington Legion fails in key game



Tim Perry about to be yanked by manager Wally Christensen (Photographed by Craig Newman)

By TOM BAER

Portland, Mich. is slipping farther and farther away from Farmington's American Legion baseball team.

The top two teams in the American Legion's 18th District will go to the Zone 3 tournament in Portland next month. The only trouble is that Farmington is no longer in second place after last Friday's 4-1 loss to Rochester.

With the victory, manager Dick Dieter's Rochester club climbed a half game ahead of Farmington — and into second place behind front-running Waterford.

Waterford kept pace by defeating Birmingham-Troy 6-1, last Friday.

The Farmington-Rochester game began what should be a hectic finish for the three teams still in contention in the 18th District.

"The whole season could start right here," said Farmington coach Howard Meier before the game. "Everything depends on our record from here on out."

So Farmington got off to a bad start in the "from here on out" department.

Farmington scored a run on two hits and an error in the first inning. Tom Celini doubled, but was tagged out at second on Rob Holton's fielder's choice. Sam Pink singled and Holton scored when centerfielder Jerry Willis misplayed the ball.

The Rochester second inning was a nightmare for Farmington pitcher Dan Perry. He faced seven men in the inning. It started when Jerry Weller walked. Ron Irwin followed with a single. Scott Ciochke topped a slow grounder which Perry grabbed and threw to third.

But the throw was wild and Weller scored. Greg Goike then made first on a bunt single to load the bases.

Ron Farmer singled to score another run and leave the bases loaded. Greg Kirby grounded into a fielder's choice, but the third run came home.

PERRY HIT the next batter, lead-off man Jerry Willis, and that was that. For the second straight Friday,

The Observer & Eccentric

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Perry had to be lifted for righthander Jim Grace.

And for the second straight Friday Grace came in and saved the game from becoming a total rout.

During his brief stint, Perry allowed three hits, struck out two and walked two. His record is 7-1.

Rochester got one more run in the inning, but after that the game settled into a pitching duel between Grace and Rochester pitcher Jim Dieters.

Dieters, who is 4-2, allowed Farmington eight hits, struck out four and walked none. Grace, who tossed a one-hitter at Walled Lake last Wednesday, struck out seven and walked three.

Bad luck seemed to follow Farmington for the rest of the game. In the third inning, two runners were thrown out attempting to steal second. An obvious mixup in the signs was at fault.

In the fourth and fifth innings, Farmington had runners on first only to have the threats end in double plays.

Farmington plays next at Waterford on Monday (July 29) at 6 p.m. The Waterford field is located behind Waterford Township High School at M-59 and Crescent Lake Road.



Tom Celini puts the tag on Rochester's Scott Goike during Friday's crucial game.

51 area cities in Metro Meet

Southfield wins 7 fitness trophies

By TOM BAER

Southfield's 50-member team won seven trophies at the Metropolitan Youth Fitness Meet last Thursday at Oakland University.

Some 51 cities sent teams to the 17th annual fitness meet which tests general playground skills of boys and girls from 10 to 15 years of age.

Southfield's seven trophies was the most ever for the city in the Metro Meet, according to Southfield playground director Ed Krass. He accompanied the team to Oakland University.

"We had a lot of good kids come out this year," Krass said. "A lot of them had training last year, and they competed in the same events."

Dina Noorily took second in the girls' Class C (10-11 year) standing long jump in 7 feet.

Kelly Franks finished second in the girls' Class C standing hop, step and jump with a 9 foot effort.

Southfield took thirds in the boys' Class A 50-yard dash and the girls' Class B running hop, step and jump. Mitchell Moses ran the dash in 6.2 seconds, and Sue Wright finished the hop in 27 feet 5 inches.

Lathrup Village's Bob Bobbitt finished third in the boy's Class C running long jump. His leap was 12 feet 7 inches.

THE 51 TEAMS were also competing for the John J. Considine, emblematic of good sportsmanship, conduct and appearance during the meet. Detroit North won the award this year. Oak Park finished second.

Southfield won the award last year, and the same city seldom wins two years in a row. But Krass was still pleased with the conduct shown by his team.

"I felt we could have won it again this year, even though we couldn't be in the running," he said.

"Their behavior was really great. The kids represented Southfield well."

Hime also praised his Lathrup Village team in its first year as a separate entry.

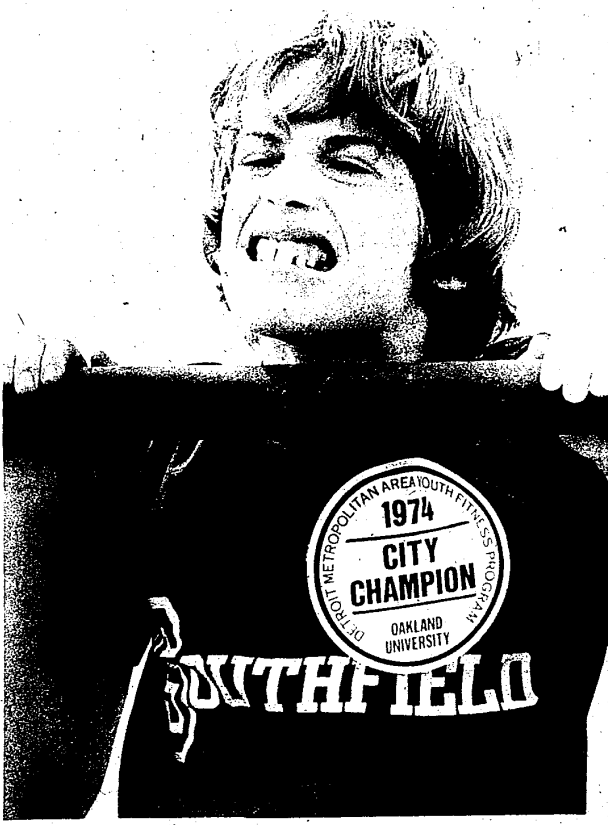
"I was pleased with the enthusiasm shown by our kids," Hime said. "Some members of the Considine Award committee complimented me on our appearance. I'm sure we finished high up in the running."

No site has been picked for next year's meet. Some possibilities are Lower Huron Metropolitan Park near Dexter or Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.



The torch is set aflame signifying the beginning of the Metropolitan Youth Fitness Meet.

Photographed by Douglas Bauman



Nobody said it was easy, but Ross Fine strains to place in the Class B chinling competition.