Waling receives BPA award for perfect game

BARBARA WALING, who last week bowled the eighth perfect game by a woman in Michigan bowling history, recieves recognition from Cass Sicila, executive secretary of the Michigan Bowling Proprietors (above). Ms. Waling followed her perfect game with 244 and 212 for a series of 756, fourtn highest by a woman in this state. Ms. Waling bowled her perfect game at Farmington Bowl and was honored for her achievement at the same house last Thursday evening. She carries a 190 average and displays her form at left. (Photo by Ralph Evert)

Observer & Eccentric

SPORTS

Monday, April 7, 1975 (F)15A

Pitching problems could plague Hawks

By KEN SCHIFF

Farmington Harrison's pitching problems could be the only thing preventing the Hawks from having a successful season when they play their first game April 9 at Detroit Redford High.

Coach Jon Herrington has good hitters returning from last year's 6-10 team along with some good fielders but he'd gladly trade a few of them for a pitcher like Tim Hammer, his top arm last year, who's pitching varsity for Western Michigan University as a freshman walk-on.

"Pitching is 80 per cent of the game and we just don't seem to have any," Herrington says. "It's unfortunate because otherwise this is the best team we've had."

Senior Kelly Collins is the Hawks' only returning pitcher. Sophomore Greg Mathiak has shown good control but other than that, Herrington is at a loss.

"I might just have to put in my strongest arms and have them pitch and hope we come with a staff," he said.

Seniors Steve Morrison and Sam Pink are the mainstays of the Harrison infield. Morrison plays second base and Pink catches or plays first and both are beginning their fourth varsity season.

Morrison, one of the area's top ballplayers, has already been scouted by several colleges, according to Herrington. He led last year's team in hitting and defense. Pink, an all-state football player headed for Purdue in the fall, was the team's other top hitter last season.

Rounding out the infield are shortstop Craig Valassis and third baseman Lon Stuart, both starters last year. Others who may see some infield action include Ed Zarb, a senior first baseman, and junior Paul Rogind, a catcher. Junior Karl Krupsky, last year's top JV prospect, could see action at third or in center field.

Herrington's only defensive problem could be figuring out where to play Krupsky, for his outfield has just as much experience as his infield. Seniors Kevin Hickey in leftfield, Doug Kallgren in center, and Tom Uphoff in right are all returning starters.

Harrison's Western Six League campaign gets under way April 16 at Walled Lake Western. Livonia Churchill, league champions last year, went on to win the state class A title. However, most of that team graduated and Herrington sees Plymouth Canton as the team to beat.

Northville should be strong and the Hawks will have to fight it out with Churchill, Waterford Mott, and Western.

"Our hitting and defense should both be solid," Herrington said, "and we have good depth at almost all our positions. If we could only find some pitching, we'd have an excellent team."

	Harrison Baseball	
April 9	Redford	4:00
April 14	at Novi	4:00
April 16	at WL Western	4:00
April 18	Farmington	4:00
April 21	Northville	4:00
April 23	at Canton	4:00
April 25	at Highland Park	4:00
April 28	at Waterford Mott	4:00
April 30	Churchill	4:00
May 3	at West Bloomfield	noon
May 5	WL Western	4:00
May 7	at Northville	4:00
May 12	Canton	4:00
May 14	Waterford Mott	4:00
May 21	at Churchill	4:00
May 24	Pre District	4:00
May 27	at N. Farmington	4:00
May 28	Redford Union	4:00
May 31	District	4:00

SL boasts 9 returning stickers

By TOM BAER

Lathrup baseball coach Don Shonta likes to look ahead.

Before the start of last season, Shonta's first as varsity baseball coach, he said: "Next season is what I'm really looking forward to. The baseball program is just taking off, and I've got a lot of ideas about what we're going to do. Once I get the program going, it's going to be a good one."

Lathrup compiled an 8-9 record last season. Now the "next season" is almost here, and Shonta believes he has the talent to improve on last year's mark.

"I have nine kids returning from last year's team," he said. "I think I have some good hitting and pitching."

One pitcher Shonta is looking forward to is senior righthander Ron Silberstein, who had a 2.14 ERA and a 2-4 won-lost record. He also hit .290 playing first base. "That won-lost record was no fault of his," Shonta said. "We lost some one-run games and a couple of extra-inning games. He's one of my top boys."

Another pitcher with potential is junior righthander Mike Moroney, who pitched for Shonta's Babe Ruth team last summer. "He has a good hard curve," the coach said. "It's almost as hard as his fastball."

JUNIOR TOM O'Rourke is another righthanded pitcher, who also fills in at first base. Senior Gerry Wichman will handle the catching. Wichman, who hit .245 last season, is fully recovered from a knee injury suffered in a football game last fall.

Other returnees include outfielders Tom Hart and Keith Deska, and infielders Mike Kemper, Rob Wincek and Kevin Deska. They all played for Shonta's summer Ruth team.

"Our weakness probably will be lack of depth in our pitching," Shonta said. "And I don't think we'll be a real sound club fielding wise. Hopefully, that'll come with time."

Lathrup opens its season April 11 at nonleague Hazel Park, a baseball powerhouse from the Southeastern Michigan Association. The Chargers' first Metro Suburban Association game is scheduled for April 18 at Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

Royal Oak Dondero won the league title last year. The MSA was a balanced baseball league last year, and it will be again this season, Shonta believes.

"I don't think anybody will walk away with it this year," he said.

	Lathrup Baseball	
April 11	at Hazel Park	4:00
April 15	at Wayne Memorial	
	Les Anders Tourney	1:00
April 18	at Lahser	4:00
April 21	Adams	4:00
April 23	at Eisenhower	4:00
April 25	Groves	4:00
April 28	Dondero	4:00
April 30	Lahser	4:00
May 2	at Adams	4:00
May 5	Eisenhower	4:00
May 7	at Groves	4:00
May 9	at Dondero	4:00
May 12	at Lahser	4:00
May 14	Adams	4:00
May 16	at Eisenhower	4:00
May 19	Groves	4:00
May 21	Dondero	4:00
May 24	PreDistrict	4:00
May 28	Southfield	3:30
May 30-31	District	4:00

2 NFHS gridders get chance at Tech

A pair of talented football players from North Farmington High could play a big part in the grid plans at Michigan Tech University next fall.

Freshmen Bill Nowland and Tom Moore will get a crack at the Huskies' lineup next fall. Both were all Northwest Suburban League picks for their play at North Farmington in 1974.

Nowland is a 5-11, 185-pound linebacker. Moore is a 6-2, 190-pound quarterback.

Michigan Tech coach Jim Kapp was enthusiastic about his crop of freshmen gridders. "This is undoubtedly the largest set of freshmen, physically, we will have ever brought in," he said.

Graduation damages Jays' diamond hopes

By TOM BAER

As area baseball coaches go, Southfield High's Greg Sliwka is certainly no oldtimer. He's beginning his second season as Southfield's varsity coach, but already he must be yearning for the good old days of last season.

Southfield finished second in the Southeastern Michigan Association, compiling a 7-2 league record. But the Blue Jays graduated nine players from that team, so the outlook isn't nearly as bright for this spring.

"It's going to be rough for us, I have to believe," Sliwka said. "We're young. We have a couple of good senior ball players, but outside of that, we're hurting for experience."

Sliwka is counting on seniors Steve Loewy and Don Fisher. Loewy, the all SMA centerfielder last season, hit .327. Fisher, a shortstop, had an even better year at the plate, hitting .377. "Loewy is going to be one of the primary outfielders in the league this season," Sliwka said.

Senior catcher Dino Antonucci had to fill in last season because of injuries, but he wasn't known for his hitting. "He's going to have to hit the ball this year – and he just might," Sliwka said.

Southfield's pitching staff was especially hard hit by graduation, but one returnee with lots of promise is lefthander Sherwin Raminick, who posted a 2.80 ERA in eight games last season. He won two games and lost one. Other pitching prospects are senior Mike Jusino, who also can play first base; junior Rick Weiland; and sophomore Jon Vigi. All are lefthanders.

If the weather permits, Southfield will open its season April 12 at home with a doubleheader against nonleague Thurston High. The SMA season starts four days later at home against Birmingham Seaholm. All SMA games begin at 4:15 p.m.

Since its beginning in the mid 1960s, the SMA has always been a good baseball league. Hazel Park and Royal Oak Kimball always seem to last until deep into the state tournaments.

"Hazel Park has almost its whole team back, and they were in the state finals last year," Sliwka said. "And Kimball's freshman and junior varsity teams haven't lost in about four years.

"Our league (the SMA) has been represented in the state finals every year since it started, and I bet an SMA team makes it again this year. I don't know what's going to happen to us."

	Southfield Baseball	
April 12	Thurston (2)	Noon
April 16	Seaholm	4:15
April 18	at Berkley	4:15
April 21	Hazel Park	4:15
April 23	at Ferndale	4:15
April 25	at Kimball	4:15
April 28	at Seaholm	4:15
April 30	Berkley	4:15
May 2	at Hazel Park	4:15
May 5	Ferndale	4:15
May 7	Kimball	4:15
May 9	Seaholm	4:15
May 12	at Berkley	4:15
May 14	Hazel Park	4:15
May 16	at Ferndale	4:15
May 19	at Kimball	4:15
May 24	Pre-district	4:15
May 28	at Lathrup	4:15
May 30	District	4:15

Eagles' 1st diamond team

Southfield Christian baseball coach Bob Newman hopes he can organize a good Class D team out of the 25 hopefuls who turned out for practice. Baseball is new at Christian this year, so there's very little information about the capabilities of any of the players.

"Our main problem right now is pitching," said Newman, who also serves as the school's athletic director. "We only have one kid (junior Greg Quiggle) who will be back next year. I kind of hate to spend time on a kid if he won't be back with us next year.

"Quiggle throws the ball pretty hard, but he's never actually pitched before. We have a freshman catcher (Dave Habolan) who's never caught before, but he's a natural athlete."

Gary Spruill, a senior, looks good in center field, according to Newman. "He has good speed and a good arm and he's played the game before in the little league and recreation ball."

Rus Vergis, another outfielder with some experience, is also a possibility. Freshman Mark Bartlett is another safe bet for the outfield. He has good defensive ability, according to Newman.

"I'm going to take my best ballplayers and stick them right up the middle," said Newman, who came to Christian after a year of coaching baseball and wrestling at Trinity College in Deerfield, Ill. "If I can strengthen my team up the middle, I'll take my chances at the corners.

"My philosophy is that the whole defensive game lies right up the center (catcher, pitcher, second base-shortstop, centerfield). If you're strong there, you should do pretty well."

Christian opens its 14-game season April 11 at home against Royal Oak Shrine. Christian's schedule is packed with some very good baseball teams.

"I'm not opposed to playing schools in classes above us," Newman said. "Baseball is a sport where the size of the school doesn't determine that much. You get a bigger draw at a big school. But if a team is well coached and if you have four or five good ballplayers, you can hang in there with some of the best of them."

	Christian Baseball	
Apr. 11	Ryl Oak Shrine	4:00
Apr. 14	Univ. Liggett	4:00
Apr. 15	at Country Day	4:00
Apr. 17	Ryl Oak St. Mary	4:00
Apr. 25	at Oak. Christian	4:00
Apr. 29	Lutheran North	4:00
May 2	at RO Shrine	4:00
May 8	at Univ. Liggett	4:00
May 13	Ryl Oak St. Mary	4:00
May 16	at Luth. North	4:00
May 22	Oak Christian	4:00
May 23	Dondero Rsn	4:00
May 26	Pre-District	4:00
May 27	[illegible]	4:00
May 30-31	District Tour	4:00

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