

Vets, newcomers blend on Legion squad

By TOM BAER

Farmington's American Legion baseball team has the veterans to make it a contender in the District 18 race this summer.

But just how far Farmington goes could depend on some important additions to manager Wally Christensen's club.

"I have a good nucleus coming back from last summer," said Christensen, who managed Farmington to an 18-2-2 record last year.

"I have three boys in their fourth year and two other players in their third year. We'll be counting on them."

The four-year men are Sam Pink, Mitch Thomas and Jeff Herman. Pink, an outstanding pitcher from Farmington, led the Legion team last year with a .411 average and 31 RBIs. He was a catcher last season, but he'll be playing first base this year.

Herman, an infielder, batted .277 last year. Another veteran, Randy Meier, has been moved from the outfield to shortstop.

In the pitching department, Christensen is counting on left-hander Dan Perry and right-hander Tim Hammer.

Both won eight games last season, when they provided most of the pitching.

This season Christensen has added three more pitchers: Bob McKenna, who was impressive at Catholic Central this spring; Mike Majeska, from Milford Lakeland; and John Jajalech, who pitched 13 innings last season before being injured in an accident.

"I'm counting on a lot from Paul," he said. "I think he's one of the best defensive catchers around."

Third base is still a question mark for Farmington. Jim Seitz, who hit .294 last summer, has a chance. So do Jim Holton and Dick Radatz.

"Dick has a tremendous glove," Christensen said. "If his stick comes along, he could move right in there."

Farmington opens its season on Sunday (June 15) with a double header at Waterford. Chief Pontiac, the defending District champion. The game begins at 2 p.m. at Waterford Township High School.

Observer & Eccentric SPORTS

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(F19)

Farmington's first home game is scheduled for Wednesday (June 18) at 6 p.m. at Drake Park. Southfield will provide the opposition.

This year District 18 has split into two six-team divisions. The North Division includes Rochester, Orion-Oxford, Troy-Birmingham, Waterford, Chief Pontiac, Auburn Heights and Southfield-Lathrup.

The South Division consists of Farmington, Southfield, Royal Oak, Walled Lake, Troy-Claughton and Berkley.

A playoff to determine the District champion will be held July 28-Aug. 1. The top two teams will advance to the state American Legion tournament in August.

FARMINGTON LEGION

June 15	at Waterford (2)	3 p.m.
June 18	Southfield	6 p.m.
June 20	Berkley	6 p.m.
June 22	Birmingham-Troy (2)	1 p.m.
June 25	at Royal Oak	6 p.m.
June 27	Walled Lake	6 p.m.
June 29	at Orion-Oxford (2)	1 p.m.
July 2	Troy-Claughton	6 p.m.
July 4	Rochester (2)	1 p.m.
July 6	at S.M. Lathrup (2)	2 p.m.
July 11	at Southfield	2 p.m.
July 12	at Berkley	10 a.m.
July 13	Auburn Heights (2)	2 p.m.
July 16	at Southfield	6 p.m.
July 18	Berkley	6 p.m.
July 20	Royal Oak (2)	2 p.m.
July 23	Troy-Claughton	6 p.m.
July 25	at Troy-Claughton	6 p.m.
July 27	Walled Lake (2)	6 p.m.
July 28-Aug	1 Playoffs	

Morrison brothers bound for pros

By KEN SCHIFF

Steve Morrison sat out most of Farmington's baseball season with an ankle injury but that didn't seem to bother the Detroit Tigers. They chose the Hawk graduate in the 14th round of the major league draft last week.

Steve's brother Gary, a sophomore on the University of Michigan varsity hockey team, was chosen the very next day in the fifth round of the National Hockey League's draft by the Philadelphia Flyers. Last season's Stanley Cup winners.

Gary says he's definitely going to finish his last two years at U-M before thinking about the Flyers' offer but Steve remains undecided.

"I just don't know what I'm going to do yet—it's a difficult decision," he said. "I have to decide right away though."

Steve's also undecided about college at this point. He's had one offer to play for Eastern Michigan University's regional championship team.

"Right now I play with a bunch of college guys in the Adray League in Detroit," Steve said. "I play for Little Caesars and it's a tough league but I'm doing all right."

So far he's batting .500 in two games but if he casts his lot with the Tigers, he'll immediately be sent down to the Bristol Va. farm club.

"THAT'S STARTING at the bottom," Steve laughed. "But they pick-

ed me so they must think I'm all right."

He probably would've gone higher in the draft had the Tigers known his ankle was back at full strength. Steve tore ligaments midway through the season and Harrison coach Jon Herrington said he was through for the year. Morrison proved him wrong, though, and came back in time to raise his average to over .400 for the season.

"I'm just happy I was drafted," he said. "The school went wild when everyone heard. I was pretty good."

Gary Morrison also graduated from Farmington and played baseball under Herrington. But he liked hockey more and was skillful enough to play for the Junior A Redwings in 1973.

At U-M this year, he played right wing and had 14 points. His team won 22 games and made it to the semifinals of the NCAA tournament before being eliminated. "We had a pretty good year," he said. "We did a lot of traveling and went out west three times. We went out to Denver for the playoffs."

Morrison said the Flyers want to see him finish school also and when he graduates they'll have the negotiation rights to him.

"If the opportunity to play came, I don't think I'd turn it down," he said. "Conditions would have to be right, though, because I'm also thinking of going into business administration."

He carries a 3.25 academic average out of a possible 4.0 but that doesn't mean he's not aggressive on the ice.

"I guess people would say I was aggressive, but that's the way it's played. But hockey takes a great deal more than just contact."

"There's more to it than violence but that's all people see." Two Canadians on his team, one also chosen but Morrison was the only American and a sophomore at that.



Dan Perry—a four-year man for Farmington

OU plans wrestling camp

The first annual Oakland University Pioneer Wrestling and Conditioning Camp is set for the last week in June and the first two weeks in July. Camp director Max Haase, Oakland University varsity wrestling coach, said there is a good turnout thus far but there is still space for more wrestlers.

The wrestling camp will have an abundance of talented instructors and technicians. Haase will act as camp director with help from such notable Oakland County coaches as Kyle Smith, coach at West Bloomfield High School; Bob Cheney, coach at Rochester High School and Bob Ketting, coach of Utica Henry Ford II High School.

Technicians for the camp are: Bill Willson, former Oakland County coach of the year, Michigan coach of the year, and presently the varsity coach of Pontiac Northern High School; Barry Walsh, formerly one of the outstanding high school wrestling prospects from Farmington Our Lady of Sorrows High School; and John Willson, a standout wrestler from Pontiac Northern, the University of Indiana, and presently the coach of Evanston (Ill.) High School.

In softball regional

Troy nips Lathrup girls

By TOM BAER

Last Saturday's Troy-Lathrup state regional softball contest was a game of singles—until the seventh inning when Troy's Shirley Mapes snapped a 4-4 tie with a leadoff home run which beat the Chargers.

The victory lifted Troy into the Class A state finals this weekend at East Lansing High.

"We had a real good shot at going to state," said Lathrup coach Jim Owens, whose team led Troy for much of the game. "For the first five-and-a-half innings, I thought we had it wrapped up."

Lathrup scored three runs on four singles and a sacrifice fly in the second inning. Denise Zack bunted for a single. Mary Prygocki singled, and Debbie Wall singled to load the bases. Melery Whitefield then singled to drive in one run. Sandy Boulton's single knocked in another. The third run scored on Ruth Fraser's sacrifice fly.

Troy held scoreless until the bottom of the sixth, when it scored four runs to take the lead.

With one out, LeVann Hroba singled, moved to second on Mary Jo Colonna's single and scored on Bea Bunting's single. Terry Shebbi then walked to load the bases. Two runs

scored on Jan Seynaki's single, and another came home on Cheryl Larson's safety.

"TROY'S HITS were solid line drives," said Owens. "The hit which broke our backs was the third single (by Bea Bunting) of the inning. It was a blooper to right field and it should have been caught."

"I stayed with the same pitcher (Miss Fraser) all through the game. I went out to talk to her after four runs were scored, and I felt we still had a chance."

As it turned out, Lathrup still had a good chance to pull out the game. The Chargers rallied for a run in the last inning to knot the game at four-all. With two out, Sue Peterman singled, but was erased on a fielder's choice with Miss Prygocki ending up on first. Miss Prygocki stole second.

She headed for third on a passed ball and was safe when the Troy catcher threw the ball into shallow left field. She then headed home and was safe in a smashup at the plate.

"There was a real rugged play at the plate which almost knocked out Mary," Owens said. "But she scored."

Colleen Kennedy, who had been batting at the time of the scoring play, grounded out to end the inning.

That set the stage for Troy's sev-

enth inning — and the winning homer by Miss Mapes. "It was just a long ball," Owens said. "It went over the center fielder's head. Cindy Wright ran for it, and there was a perfect relay to the plate. But the runner was safe. It was a home run."

LATHRUP OUTRHY Troy, 15-12. Miss Colonna was the winning pitcher.

Earlier Saturday, Lathrup stopped Waterford Township, 19-4, in a semi-final game. Miss Fraser was the winning pitcher, giving up six hits and lifting her season record to 17-8.

Lathrup, which had 11 hits, scored five runs in the fourth inning. Miss Zack bunted for a single. Miss Prygocki singled and Miss Kennedy walked to load the bases. Miss Whitefield then bunted and a Waterford fielder threw wildly to first allowing a run to score.

Miss Boulton walked and the bases were loaded again. Miss Fraser walked, driving in another run. Leslie Kyle then singled to drive in two more.

Lathrup finished the season with an 18-8 record.

"I felt we had a good season," Owens said. "I'm just disappointed that we didn't get to the state finals. We came so close. The girls deserve to win. They played that well."



Sue Peterman (left) and Ruth Fraser (center) retire a Waterford runner

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