

Weather cooperates for a change

# High school baseball teams ready for season

By TOM BAER  
It seems to happen every spring. Mother Nature usually plays some dirty tricks on high school baseball coaches who would appreciate a few warm, dry days so their teams can get some outdoor practice before the season begins.

But, so far, this spring seems to be an exception. The days of late March and early April have been reasonably spring-like, and the prep baseball teams have been taking full advantage.

It's been one of the better springs I can remember," said Farmington Harrison coach John Herrington. "Except for the last few days the weather has been pretty good. We've had some real good outdoor practices and even a couple of spring games."

Of the three Farmington high schools, Herrington's Harrison squad has the earliest opener—April 8 at home against non-league Highland Park North Farmington, under new coach Jerry Maxwell will open a day later with a double header at Walled Lake Central. Coach Richard Hoy's Farmington High team opens on April 12 at Redford Union.

Harrison, which finished with a 12-9 record last season, should have strong pitching, according to Herrington. "We should be fairly strong in pitching and defense, but weak in hitting and possibly in the outfield," he said.

Harrison's top pitcher should be junior Gregg Mathias, a right hander who compiled a 4-2 won-lost record last season. He's not overpowering, but he always has had good control, Herrington said.



Harrison's Paul Rogind sharpens his batting eye during a recent practice. Rogind, who is beginning his third season on Harrison's varsity, led the team in hitting with a .319 average last year. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Another Harrison mound hopeful is junior Chris Kalligen, a right hander who starts at shortstop when he's not pitching. Herrington has a pair of sophomores—Brett Homovac and Fred Blackmer—who should add to his pitching strength.

They both need experience, but this throw the ball as hard as anyone we've ever had here. They should really help out.

Senior catcher Paul Round is beginning his third season on Harrison's varsity. He was the team's top hitter with a .319 average last season and he was as sure behind the plate either. He's an excellent defensive catcher with a strong arm, Herrington said. He's also very agile and quick behind the plate.

Harrison, a member of the Western Six League, begins league play on April 28 at Livonia Franklin. Plymouth Canton won the Western Six baseball title last season and the Chiefs look like a good bet to take it again, Herrington said.

Canton won the title last year and most of its top players are back, he said. "Lavonia Churchill and Waterloo Met could be factors. I don't know too much about Northville or Leland Lakes West."

At North Farmington, Jerry Maxwell took over as head baseball coach from a year's team, which finished with a 5-10 overall record. "I think we'll have some fairly decent pitching," Maxwell said. "You have to have at least two or three strong arms in high school ball and I'm hoping to come up with them."

I expect a good year from everyone," Maxwell said. "I expect the Chiefs to be the ball well and I expect Kevin McCorm to have a decent season. He's a smart, talented baseball player."

Last year hitting was our weakness. I hope that doesn't carry over into this season. I don't expect that it will but then I'm a very optimistic person."

North Farmington opens its Northern Suburban League season at Livonia Franklin on April 11.

Garden City East is supposed to be the cream of the crop this year, Maxwell said. "They have some sager ballplayers, back and everyone picks them to take it all. Thurston comes up with a good club every year. Livonia Franklin always seems to have a lot of talent. Westland John Glenn is supposed to be down this year."

Not too many people expect much from North Farmington, but I do."

FARMINGTON HIGH has five starters back from last year's club, which compiled a 10-7 overall record and finished second in the Inter-Lakes League.

Of the returnees, outfielder Kevin Korman and infielder pitcher Randy Meier proved they could hit the ball last season. Korman led the team with a .308 average and Meier batted .300. Other prospects include outfielder Dan Maron, third baseman Dick Radatz and second baseman Mark Melton.

Hitting will be one of our strong points, Roy said. "We hit the ball real well last year and most of those kids are back. We'll be real weak in pitching. We're untried—let's put it that way."

Meier, a junior, could be one of the team's top pitchers. Roy also has Tom Vogel noted for his fast ball and Kevin Velp, a sophomore.

Farmington has five non-league games before its Inter-Lakes League opener on April 20 at Livonia Franklin.

I usually use the first two games as exhibitions," Roy said. "We play to win."

## Baseball schedules

**FARMINGTON BASEBALL**  
April 12, at Redford Union, 1:00 p.m.  
April 14, Farmington Harrison, 4 p.m.  
April 17, at Northville High, 6:00 p.m.  
April 27, Scituate Lathrup, 4 p.m.  
April 28, at Redford, 4 p.m.  
April 30, at Livonia Severn, 4 p.m.  
May 1, at Walled Lake Central, 4 p.m.  
May 1, at Milford Lakes, 4 p.m.  
May 2, at Pontiac Northern, 4 p.m.  
May 12, Livonia Severn, 4 p.m.  
May 14, at Waterloo Central, 4 p.m.  
May 15, at Westland John Glenn, 4 p.m.  
May 17, at North Farmington, 4 p.m.  
May 21, at Waterloo Township, 4 p.m.  
May 21, at North Farmington, 4 p.m.  
May 27, Highland Park, 4 p.m.  
May 29, Detroit, 4 p.m.  
June 3, Detroit, 4 p.m.

**NORTH FARMINGTON BASEBALL**  
April 10, at Walled Lake Central, 6:00 p.m.  
April 11, at Farmington Harrison, 4 p.m.  
April 12, at Livonia Franklin, 4 p.m.  
April 20, Highland Park, 4 p.m.  
April 21, Livonia Severn, 4 p.m.  
April 28, Waterloo Central, 4 p.m.  
April 29, Garden City East, 4 p.m.  
May 1, Thurston High, 4 p.m.  
May 1, at Novi, 4 p.m.  
May 7, Livonia Franklin, 4 p.m.  
May 12, Garden City East, 4 p.m.  
May 14, at Durston High, 4 p.m.  
May 14, at Livonia Franklin, 4 p.m.  
May 21, at Westland John Glenn, 4 p.m.  
May 22, at Northville High, 6:00 p.m.  
May 23, Farmington High, 4 p.m.  
May 28, Garden City East, 4 p.m.  
May 29, Detroit, 4 p.m.  
June 3, Detroit, 4 p.m.

**FARMINGTON HARRISON BASEBALL**  
April 9, Highland Park, 4 p.m.  
April 12, North Farmington, 4 p.m.  
April 17, at Farmington High, 4 p.m.  
April 20, at Livonia Churchill, 4 p.m.  
April 29, at Woodford Lakes, 4 p.m.  
April 30, Walled Lake Western, 4 p.m.  
May 1, at Northville High, 4 p.m.  
May 3, Plymouth Canton, 4 p.m.  
May 4, Novi, 4 p.m.  
May 8, Birmingham Groves, Southfield, 4 p.m.  
May 10, at Broomfield, 4 p.m.  
May 12, Livonia Churchill, 4 p.m.  
May 17, at Waterloo Lakes, 4 p.m.  
May 18, at Novi, 4 p.m.  
May 20, Detroit Redford, 4 p.m.  
May 24, at Plymouth Canton, 4 p.m.  
May 28, at Waterloo Met, 4 p.m.  
May 29, Detroit, 4 p.m.  
June 3, Detroit, 4 p.m.

# Harrison, Farmington score at Spartans

By TOM BAER  
For the Southfield and Farmington high school track teams entered in the Spartan Relays at Michigan State University last Saturday, the story was much the same as in the Huron Relays a week before—not many team points scored, but several outstanding individual performances.

Pontiac Northern and Ypsilanti shared the team title with 18 points each. Grosse Pointe North was third with 15 1/2, half a point more than fourth-place Dearborn High. Locally, Farmington Harrison and Farmington High each scored two points. North Farmington, Southfield High and Southfield-Lathrup entered the meet, but failed to score any team points.

Harrison's points came in a fine effort by senior two-miler Mike Redford, who finished fourth in that event with a 9:56.6 clocking. Redford's time was a variety record, according to Harrison coach Tom Shalla. "We expect Mike to be down in the 9:40s before the season's over," Shalla said. "He's been working tremendously hard all year—winter, summer, fall and spring. He's just total dedication."

## Sports coming up

- Baseball**  
Friday (April 9) Highland Park at Farmington Harrison, 2995 Twelve Mile Road, 4 p.m.  
Saturday (April 10) North Farmington at Walled Lake Central, 2978 S. Commerce Road, double header, first game begins at 11 a.m.
- Tennis**  
Friday (April 9) Walled Lake Central at Farmington Harrison, 2995 Twelve Mile Road, 4 p.m.
- Track**  
Friday and Saturday (April 9-10) Farmington High will participate in the Mansfield-Meloch Relays, Mansfield, Ohio.
- Girls' Track**  
Thursday (April 8) North Farmington at Waterloo Township, 4:59 and Crescent Lakes Road, 4 p.m.

Harrison's two-mile relay of Rick Hrutkay, Al Dubal, Adam Werner and Albert Oulafia set another varsity record by going 8:40.7 at the Spartans. "It didn't score any points, but at least it was a personal best for Harrison, Shalla said. "Werner is moving to Washington after this school year. We sure hate to lose him."

Another Harrison trackman, sophomore Mike Bowden, turned in a 19:11 1/2 long jump, just 1/4-inch short of qualifying.

Farmington High scored in two events, recording 11th places in the 70-yard low hurdles and the two-mile run. Brian Stenzell, a senior, placed in the low hurdles with a time of 0:33.3. Farmington varsity record sophomore Harold Rutla scored in the two-mile with a 9:57.2, a Farmington sophomore indoor record, breaking the old mark set by Mike McGuire in 1971.

Farmington trackmen turned in several other good performances. The Falcons' 800-yard relay (Ron Hill, Vance Gutierrez, Dan Jamieson and Stenzell) broke a school indoor record with a 1:38.2 timing. Mike Danza also broke a school indoor mark and just missed the finals with a 0:11 in the 70-yard high hurdles. Kevin Harman, a junior, just missed scoring in the shot put with a 49.5 toss. "We were pretty happy with our performances," said Farmington coach Gerald Young. "We didn't score a lot of points, but we did a respectable job overall."

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Relays summary—see page 2