



## Getting in the spring swing

photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographers

Harrison's Brian Smolinski (left) and the rest of the Hawks are hoping to reverse their fortunes after a horrendous 1984 baseball season. North Farmington and Farmington baseball squads are in similar predicaments. Could this be the season that Farmington-area baseball recaptures its faded glory? Sports editor Chris McCosky previews the three area squads and assesses that chance.

## Area teams seek to recapture glory

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

There was a time, not too long ago, that high school baseball in the Farm-

ington area was at a level equal to the elite teams in the state.

Wasn't it just 1981 that Farmington Harrison was a state finalist? It seems like only yesterday that North

Farmington was winning 134 ball games in eight years under coach Jerry Maxwell. And Farmington, the school used to turn out top college prospects with impressive regularity.

What has happened to Farmington-area baseball?

Last season, all three teams finished with dismal records. Harrison was 6-12. North was 8-14. Farmington was 5-14.

Sadly, the outlook for this season is only slightly more positive.

When the season officially opens a week from today, the three teams will practice or play for the first time in some 10 days. Because of the large number of players that head south for Easter break, practices and games will not be scheduled this week.

Other area schools, the Plymouth-Canton district schools, Wayne, the Redford schools and the parochial schools, have all either played games or practiced daily over the break. When the season opens a week from now, the Farmington-area schools will be a step or so behind the competition.

Hopefully, the level of athletic ability on the three teams can overcome the early setback.

Here's a presaison look at the three Farmington-area baseball teams:

### FARMINGTON HARRISON

The Hawks have won Western Lakes titles in football and basketball this year with basically the same group of athletes. This same group is the nucleus of John Herrington's baseball team.

"The principal came up to me the other day and said if we didn't win it this year, it would be my fault," Herrington joked.

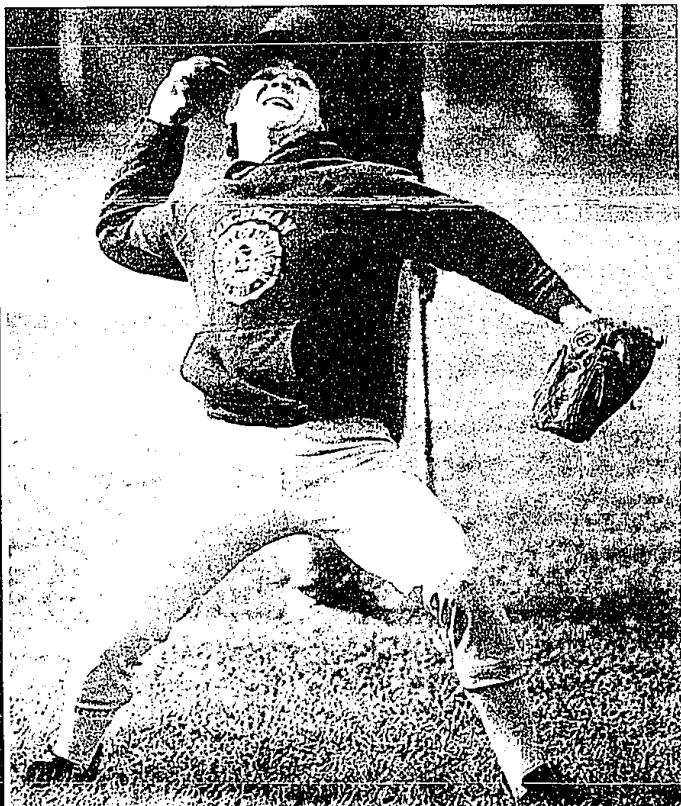
"We will be up there," he added more seriously. "We have experience, just about everyone's back off last year's team. And we have solid hitting and solid fielding. But, I can't see us being extremely strong because our pitching is so untied."

Pitching could well be the chink in the Hawks' armor. Only three wins were registered last year by the three returning hurlers.

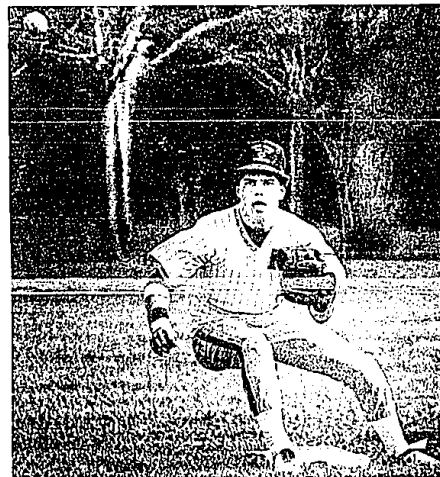
The best arm on the squad, according to Herrington, belongs to Vince Enright. He, along with Mike Inch (1-1, 2.33 ERA last year) and Mike Johnson (2-1, 1.26) will be three premier starters. Junior Jon Weisberg and Brad Rounds along with sophomore Gary Schwedt will see mound duty.

Now the good news. Harrison should score plenty of runs. Returning to the fold are centerfielder John Miller (309 last year), shortstop Brian Smolinski (365), catcher Mike Colosio (439), Inch (313) and third baseman Dan Murray (308 with four home runs).

Shawn Brennan will also contribute



Farmington's hopes rest largely on the talents of outfielder-pitcher Chris Green.



Eric Engel is one of just four returning starters for first-year North Farmington coach Irv Horowitz.

in the outfield. Brennan earned a varsity job as a sophomore last year, but broke his arm early in the season.

The Hawks may not win the talented Western Lakes this season, but they should be in the chase.

The season opens Wednesday, April 17, at home against Northville.

### NORTH FARMINGTON

Jerry Maxwell is gone — he resigned after last year — but his coaching style remains in vogue at North.

Irv Horowitz has been teaching Maxwell's system at the junior varsity level for four years and now, as head coach, he plans no changes.

"No, Jerry is a friend of mine and we've worked together a long time," the likeable Horowitz said. "I'm not going to coach that much differently. I've been coaching on the JV so long, doing the same things Jerry did to get the kids ready for his team, there's no reason to change."

One thing he'd like to change is the fact that, like Harrison, North is a bit thin on pitching.

"Our strength will be our quickness

on the bases and we play nice defense," Horowitz said. "Our pitching and our hitting may be suspect at this point."

Tom Cotter and Bob Chwalik are the only two pitchers with varsity experience. Others hoping to fill the void are senior Ed Collins and juniors Todd Shepard and Brian McDanel.

Shortstop Eric Engel and junior catcher Mike Rudin, along with Cotter and Chwalik, are the only returning starters back from last year. Seniors Scott Knoll (left field), Collins (third base), Mark Dillman (outfield, designated hitter) and Mike McBeth (center field) should see significant duty.

The same is true of juniors Steve Brown (outfield), Pat Gallina (outfield), Tim Seabolt (first base) and Brian Bossecaewen (second base).

The Raiders aren't expected to challenge for the Northwest Suburban League crown. Defending state Class B champion Redford Thurston, along with John Glenn and Garden City should be the front-runners.

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## Sports agent 'in right place at right time'

By Jim Hughes  
staff writer

Harold Curry is living testimony to the "being in the right place at the right time" adage. The right place is Rochester, and he's having the time of his life.

Curry, 36, is a 12-year resident of Rochester. He moved to the northern suburbs after earning his law degree from Wayne State University, and now he's making his living as an agent for professional football players.

"After I got out of law school, I moved to an apartment complex right around the time the Detroit Lions moved from Detroit to Pontiac," Curry recalled. "It seemed half of the players

from the team were living in the same complex."

"I ran into Charlie West on the tennis courts or while I was out jogging, and we developed a friendship. We had been friends about a year and a half, and Charlie asked me if I'd represent him. Ever since then, it's had a mushroom effect."

WEST, A LION defensive back from 1974 to '77, was Curry's first client. He now represents Lions Leonard Thompson, Dexter Bussey, Homer Ellis, Bobby Watkins, Alvin Hall and Rosey Barnes. Other clients include former Penn State running back Booker Moore, now with the Buffalo Bills, and

ex-Michigan Wolverines Marion Body, Brian Carpenter and Evan Cooper. Rick Rogers, a senior at U-M, and Aaron Roberts, a Michigan State University senior and Detroit Catholic Central graduate, also are Curry's clients, and will be eligible for the upcoming NFL draft.

"What happens is, once you get a player from a certain team, you get a lot of referrals," Curry said. "This wasn't something I had planned. At first, I was reluctant to get involved because I didn't want to exploit my friendship for professional reasons, but Charlie asked me."

"Perhaps this was my niche," Curry, whose Harold Curry Sports

Agency Inc. office is next to Meadowbrook Courts in Rochester, is a corporate member of the athletic club. It's not rare for his football clients to drop in and use some of the facilities — either for aerobic workouts or weight-lifting.

"It's really convenient, because if one of my clients drops in to see me and I'm not here, they can go over and work out," he said. "It's been a good investment. It keeps me in shape, anyway."

Curry, who also represented former Lions Larry Walton, Ray Jarvis, Ernie Price, Vance Thompson and Horace

King, says an enjoyment from his role comes as he sees players grow.

"I REALLY enjoy this. There's some problems, though. A lot of the time, guys out of college are not all mature about matters pertaining to business decisions. . . . If someone gets \$200,000, it's more like \$125,000, and they ask, 'What happened to the money?' You have to explain to them you have to pay taxes in this country."

"As time progresses, they grow and develop. It's nice to see someone like Leonard Thompson, who made \$19,000 when he started, and now, he's making, well, let's say he's making a considerable amount more."

Curry said he hasn't had any "single act of drama," as when Billy Sims' agent, Jerry Argovitz, was trying to renegotiate Sims' contract in 1982. He approaches contract negotiations like football coaches approach Sunday — with a game plan.

"I've never been involved in any single act of drama," he said. "You start with a plan and you put it into motion. It's important to understand that it has to run its natural course. You have to identify your goals from the beginning, and do things in relationship to those goals and objectives."

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