

OK To Lose In 7 Games

The slow start of Farmington's American Legion junior baseball team doesn't disturb manager Harry Kujawa.

Despite the fact the Farmington team stood 1-4 entering this weekend's action, Kujawa still thinks his forces will repeat as district champions. "I've told the boys to forget about their first seven games," declared Kujawa. "We'll still have 19 more left after that."

It's Kujawa's opinion it will take seven contests to get his team organized. "We have many new players this season," he declared as he watched the rain wash out a game at Southfield Wednesday. "Besides we have a lot of teaching to do, especially with the 15-year-olds on the team. They're making mistakes which will be corrected in due time through instruction and work."

THE TEAM is made up of players from Farmington's three senior highs—Farmington, North Farmington and Our Lady of Sorrows.

Kujawa has Terry Tinkle and Steve Sayer alternating at first base. Tinkle is a veteran from Farmington High. Sayer is from North Farmington.

At Kilkka (Farmington), Dennis Perry (Sorrows) work at second. It's Jim McGrath (Sorrows) and Kilkka at short with Joe Himmelspach (Farmington) at third, unless he's pitching. Then Tom Snyder (North Farmington) moves into

the hot corner.

Chris Norton (Farmington), Doug Drapalski and Gary Zerkhan, the latter two from North Farmington, give the team "the fastest outfield in the league," according to Kujawa.

Tom Webster (Sorrows) tops the catching department which includes Mark Kujawa (Harry's son) and Gary Mims, Gary Carr (NF), Mike Thompson (Farmington), Bruce Ballenoff (NF) and Himmelspach do most of the pitching.

FARMINGTON FACES Berkley in a doubleheader Sunday at the Farmington varsity field at 2 p.m. On Wednesday Farmington hosts Milford. Then follows a Friday date at Walled Lake.

The district winner advances to the regionals and from the regionals the survivor marches on to the state championships.

Then follows the national competition which ends with the annual Junior World Series.

Plymouth Driver Makes A Comeback

Dick Simmons of Plymouth is staging a comeback at the Flat Rock Speedway.

He was shooting for his fourth straight victory in the figure-8 competition in Saturday night's action at the pretzel-shaped course. Simmons is one of the regulars who vies for honors at Flat Rock. Others include Fran Hardin of Wayne and Jay Fair, the circuit's top performer to date this season.

The cars race every Saturday at Flat Rock with trials at 7 p.m., and the first race at 8:30.

Dragsters

Speeds of up to 215 miles per hour are being hit by drivers each Saturday night at the Motor City Dragway.

The admission to the track is \$3.50 for adults with children under 12 free.

Observing SPORTS

By George Maskin

One of the nicest features about sports is the people you meet.

Take Harry Kujawa of Farmington, a stereo-printer by profession on the midnight shift at The Detroit News.

He chooses those working hours so that he can spend the greater part of each day teaching the boys of Farmington and Livonia how to play baseball.

"The kids are crying for baseball knowledge," Kujawa tells you. "And there's so much they can learn. Too many of them never have been taught any fundamentals, and that goes for boys who have reached high school age."

Because of his passion for teaching baseball, Kujawa has arranged a series of clinics which he'll stage during the summer months at Our Lady of Sorrows' diamond in Farmington.

He started this past week and he has broken the boys down in age groups—those 8-10, 11-12 and 13-14. And there are the boys over 15 who play on Farmington's American Legion team which Kujawa is managing this season.

"YOU KNOW, MOST SCHOOL teachers have to find an extra job July to September until they go back to the classroom," says Kujawa. "So what's wrong with me performing an extra job during the summer, too?"

The only difference is that Kujawa receives next to no remuneration for his extra-curricular activity. By the time he's through, he has to dig into his own pocketbook.

"But I love kids and I love sports . . ." Kujawa says.

So what else really matters? Kujawa was a three-sport star at Detroit Catholic Central High School. He was there when Art Houtteman and Ray Herbert, who later made it to the major leagues in baseball, attended the school.

When he graduated, Kujawa had a chance to attend college. But the military dictated otherwise. "I never did get to college," he explains. "But if I had, I would have become a teacher. And I think I'd have made a good one, too."

Those who know Kujawa have no doubts he's made a top-flight instructor.

"There's nobody like Harry," one of his neighbors said on the telephone. And she called on her own, because as she added: "Mr. Kujawa is the greatest. None of us can say too much nice about him."

GETTING BACK TO THE RIGORS of baseball, Kujawa declares.

"What we strive to do is to teach boys how to throw a ball, how to catch one, how to play the various positions, how to hold a bat properly, how to step in the right direction, etc."

"It's a big job. We spend two hours each week with each group demonstrating, and then we spend more time letting the boys play baseball under fun conditions."

Kujawa stressed the word "fun." He gave the impression that many of the boys playing in Little League weren't truly enjoying themselves. The pressure from their parents . . . the pressure for winning was too much.

In fact, Kujawa proclaimed: "Maybe they should get the fathers out of Little League. It would be a better game then."

There's more in the Kujawa "school" for baseball than working to develop a boy's fundamentals. Kujawa also strives to:

- Have the boy learn the proper respect for his manager and his coaches.
- Teach respect for umpires and parents.
- Impress the boy how important discipline is.

Mound Gems For Livonia

It's unfortunate Jerry Schwalm can't pitch every game for Livonia's Class A baseball team.

Schwalm, who attended Eastern Michigan University, has turned in two masterpieces in his last two starts to keep the Livonians hot on the heels of front-running Redford Township in the Western Wayne County "A" circuit.

A week ago he tossed a 7-0, no-hitter against Inkster. On that occasion he struck out 14. Last Monday he came back with a one-hitter in downing Dearborn Heights, 4-1.

ONCE MORE Schwalm fanned 14. No Dearborn batter hit the ball out of the infield. Most of the team hails from Livonia. Players like Paul Portney, Jim Rose, Roger Frayer, Henry Allen and Pete Hembrough all came out of the Livonia school system, attending either Bentley or Franklin.

IN THE GAME against Dearborn Heights, Livonia jumped off to a 2-0 lead in the first inning. Leadoff man Portney was safe on an error and pranced home on Rose's triple. Rose in turn crossed on an infield tapper.

In compiling a 4-2 record, Livonia has had its problems against Redford, losing to the strong Townshippers twice.

Teams play three games a week—on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday.

Just how strong the league is was proved last year when Redford went on to win the playoffs and then outstate Free Press competition to qualify for the national all boys tournament held at Johnstown, Pa. It marked the first time an area team had won a spot in a U.S. tourney.

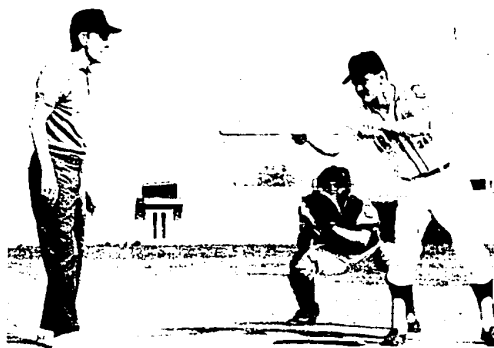
GAMES ARE PLAYED on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays with Livonia's Henry Ford Field the center of operations. Diamonds at Franklin High, Haggerty Field, Bell Creek and Garden City also are used. Dependable Hard Chrome, the

current loop leader, plays a doubleheader at Henry Ford Field Sunday, meeting the Red Sox at 6 o'clock and then tangling with the Livonia Giants at 8:30.

The Giants are paired with Garden City at Garden City at 2 p.m. Sunday while at 5 at Garden City, it'll be Garden City vs. Dearborn 7 Club.

ON WEDNESDAY, the Red Sox engage Hard Chrome at 6:15 p.m. while Livonia Giants meet Garden City at 8:30 in a pair of UHS under the Henry Ford lights.

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COACH HARRY KUJAWA offers bunting advice to batter Joe Himmelspach and catcher Tom Webster.

And, oh, yes, Kujawa centers his discussions around helping the boy to grow up to be "A Man." Kujawa admits he wishes he had more time, especially now that the Recreation Department in Livonia has heard of what he is doing and wants to hire him next year to run a series of baseball schools for boys.

All of which doesn't leave Kujawa with too much time to waste or to sleep.

"Kids, my they're wonderful!" he repeats and repeats.

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