

West Nine Could Stun Loop Foes

They caught the Pioneer League by surprise last year, but this time around West High's baseball opponents will be forewarned — the Warriors are loaded.

Head coach Max Lomas, who will guide the Warriors into their second season of competition against Inglewood on Tuesday, is blessed with a little bit of everything.

The everything includes pitcher-slugger John Marsden, a junior who is termed by rival coaches as the finest major league prospect in the South Bay and probably in Southern California.

As a sophomore last season, Marsden compiled a .94 earned run average, struck out 89 men, flipped a pair of one-hitters, threw a two-hitter, and

lost a three-hitter. In addition he hit .348, drove in 18 runs, connected for 4 home runs, 3 triples and 3 doubles.

When Marsden was a freshman, he started at North High and batted in the cleanup slot. When West opened last year, he became a Warrior.

But Marsden is not West's only weapon. Back is second sacker Gary Loyd, who led the Warriors in hitting with a .365 average.

Teaming with Loyd in the infield will be Dave LaRoche, a returning starter at first base, and Dick Buchanan at shortstop. Buchanan suffered an off-season injury, but he has the potential. As a sophomore at South High, he was All-Bay at second base with a .385 batting average.

Lomas will place Marsden at third base when he is not on the mound.

West's only weakness could come in the outfield where inexperience will show up. Scheduled to open will be Roy Hubecek, who is up from the junior varsity, and either Jim Barnes, Earl Foster or Mike Donahue.

Two veterans will team with Marsden on the mound. LaRoche and Tim Speaks both were starters for West last year. Joining the trio will be 6-2, 195-pound sophomore Ron Sells who is termed by Lomas, "a fine all-around athlete."

When Marsden comes to the hill, Paul Gadbois will take

over third base. When LaRoche pitches, Sells will assume first base chores.

At catcher, Lomas will go with Dennis Dodd, who took over for the injured Richard Grossman last year.

Grossman is one of two graduates who will be missed. He was considered the South Bay's finest receiver by Lomas until injured late in the year against Culver City. The other loss is outfielder Jerry Cole who would "come up and kill you in a ball game," according to Lomas.

Lomas feels that pitching will be the key to West's chances in the extremely tough Pioneer loop. Aviation, last year's CIF "AA" division

TURN ON YOUR LIGHTS FOR FREEDOM

On Friday, Feb. 21st, between the hours of 4 and 9 P.M., members of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors will be circulating a petition for your signature. Your signature on this petition is simply a request that the Rumford Housing Act be placed on the ballot next November for a vote of the people.

Hastily conceived and passed last fall without the consent of the people of California, the Rumford Act places the property owner in jeopardy with the law should he refuse to rent, lease or sell according to the dictates of the State. Your signature on this petition simply means you want the people of this state to exercise their right to vote on this measure.

If your porch light is on Feb. 21st between dusk and 9 P.M., we will call on you. If you are not contacted that night, please call Davenport 6-3010.

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Lettermen Scarce On South Squad

Only three lettermen will be on hand for South High baseball coach Jerry McIlvaine when he sends his second squad against Torrance on March 5 in a pre-league encounter.

All of the lettermen are bunched in the outfield. Returning are Randy McKay, Dave Farber and John Minech. They will give McIlvaine what he considers his club's strongest point.

EVERYTHING but the outfield is untested. Opening at catcher will be junior Phil Hertzog while sophomores Craig Moore and Gordon Mahon will operate at the third base and shortstop slots.

Senior Larry Ropch and junior Chuck Rehor are battling for the second base opening while Richard White is the probable first base starter.

On the mound, McIlvaine will go with Dale St. John, Ron Johnson and Ray Allen. All three are seniors and junior varsity lettermen. St. John was impressive in American Legion ball during the summer and McIlvaine feels he may be

one of the Bay League's top choppers.

McIlvaine believes Mahon may be the key to the infield. The Spartan mentor says he has never had a better sophomore infielder at South than Mahon.

South's weaknesses will be concentrated in its lack of varsity infield and pitching experience, according to McIlvaine. The Spartan strength will come from the experienced, speedy outfield.

Santa Monica and Redondo are McIlvaine's selection to battle it out for the top Bay League pick, although he believes the circuit will be generally weaker than in recent seasons.

McILVAINE TABS South third, "unless th infield comes through."

The Bay League teams will play a 15-game schedule this year due to the smaller loop. The first five games will be conducted round-robin style. In the next 10 games, teams will play the same opponent twice in one week on a home-and-home basis.

Inexperience Hits NHS Horsehiders

Returning North High baseball personnel will be at a minimum when the Saxons open their 1964 horsehide campaign on Friday, Feb. 28, against Bishop Montgomery.

Familiar faces will be hard to find. Lettermen are almost non-existent and even the head coach has been changed.

JIM O'BRIEN will be at the helm for North instead of Mel Nygren, who has switched to a counseling job at West High. O'Brien was also assistant coach for North's undefeated Bee football squad the past season.

Despite a lack of lettermen, the Saxons will field a tight defense.

Either Sam Elliott or Andy Carter will handle the catching chores while Ron Dauer and Jeff Osborn are battling for the first base slot.

Rudy Suarez apparently has the second base job nailed down and Dave Rance is scheduled to start in place of injured Joe DeLuca at shortstop. DeLuca, who started last year as a sophomore, is out with a broken kneecap.

Brent Nickoloff, who also started as a sophomore, will

open at third base. Nickoloff has been the top Saxon hitter in pre-season drills, according to O'Brien.

In the outfield, O'Brien will go with Mark O'Conner, who is up from the junior varsity, and at 6-2, 180-pounds, is considered one of the squad's strangest players. Dennis Ireland, a guard on North's CIF-bound basketball squad, will join the outfield later.

O'Brien says either Elliott or Carter will also occupy an outfield post.

Much of North's success this year will depend on a grass-green mound corps. A freshman, Daryl Masuyama, may be the Saxon's top thrower. Masuyama, who just recently came to the United States from Japan, was the top North chucker in a scrimmage win over Palos Verdes.

RON OLGUIN, a sophomore, Ron Windell, a junior, and Osborne, the only southpaw on the staff, are battling for starting mound slots. Windell shut-out Palos Verdes for three innings in the scrimmage while Olguin led last year's junior varsity to win over the varsity in a season-ending game.



WARRIOR NETTER . . . Jim Paul, number two man on El Camino College's tennis squad, will be instrumental in coach Paul Manahan's plans to bring the college its first Metropolitan Conference net championship in history. The Warriors finished second last season and has virtually the same team back.

Tartar Sluggers Eye Tough Year

New Torrance High baseball mentor Dale Walker holds down an unenviable position.

Walker, who took over for Irv Kasten, must compete in the Pioneer League, where CIF "AA" division champ Aviation will attempt to retain its crown. In addition, Walker will be without pitcher Don Coll, who led Torrance to second place last season and was named the circuit's Outstanding Player.

BUT WALKER, a transplanted Canadian, does not sound discouraged . . . maybe because transfers have helped shore up an otherwise precarious situation at Torrance.

Leading a long list of transfers is Les Dutcher, a 6-0, 185-pounder from Narbonne High. Dutcher was the "ace" on last year's Gaucho junior varsity squad and the Los Angeles Angels have already shown interest in the sophomore.

Dutcher will pitch and play outfield for the Tartars.

Jeff Kruger, the THS third sacker, came a little farther — from Saginaw, Mich., where he batted .400 as a sophomore on the junior varsity squad.

Two Bishop Montgomery transfers also show promise,

according to Walker. They are center fielder John Ziemke, a sophomore who batted .375 at BMHS last year and was named the junior varsity's most valuable player, and short-inning reliever Norm Korchensky.

Walker will open with Lloyd Gilstrip, a junior, as catcher, and with either Bob Battaglia, Mike Blankenship or Dutcher on the mound. Both Battaglia and Blankenship are lettermen.

Rod White, who swatted at a .370 clip in winter ball, will hold down the first base slot, while Rene Ponce, a member of the 1962 Torrance championship junior varsity squad, will go at second.

JASON CASTILLO, another member of the title nine, will handle shortstop duties.

Joining Dutcher and Ziemke in the outfield will be either Keith Patton, Steve Horton, Larry Snyder or Gary Fulton.

Another transfer, Steve Kealy, who came from the California Military Academy, may help Torrance on the mound. Kealey, a soph, may break into the starting rotation, according to Walker.

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