



Farm Team

By Will Weaver, Michael Koelsch

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Farm Team VS. Town Team

Milking, haying, and planting leave Billy Baggs very little time for the thing he loves most--baseball. So when his mother suggests building a baseball field in their cow pasture and inviting the neighbors to play, Billy is willing to give it a try. After all, a farm team has to be better than no team...or does it?

With Gina Erickson in right field, Big Danny Boyer is left, and Skinner, the aging Labrador retriever, in center, the team's lineup is a joke. But who'll get the last laugh when they play the big game--Billy, or his arch rival, King Kenwood?

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Farm Team By Will Weaver, Michael Koelsch Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Weaver (*Striking Out*) combines wickedly sharp wit with a love of baseball and intimate knowledge of farm life to yield an emotionally satisfying tale. With a classic triumph-of-the-underdogs theme, simplistic resolution (all anyone needs to iron out his problems, it seems, is to play a little baseball) and cinematic climax, Weaver seems to be writing with Hollywood in mind—Lake Wobegon meets *Field of Dreams*. But the story is peopled with such acutely observed characters and, after its foreboding opening, infused with such joyous optimism that its well-worn ground poses few problems. In northern Minnesota, Billy Baggs, 14, has to forgo playing baseball to work the family dairy farm after his father, Abner, lands in jail. Determined to have fun despite—or rather because of—grim Abner's absence, mother Mavis circulates flyers inviting one and all to Friday night baseball, to be played on the diamond she and Billy make in a cow pasture. Almost magically the game unites the locals and raises their self-esteem, from migrant Mexican farmworkers to a slatternly teenage mother to Billy himself. In a good old-fashioned ending, our hero bests his nemesis (the town team's star player), earns Abner's grudging respect and wins the admiration of the girl who makes his heart sing. Ages 12-up.

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 7⁺-12. Billy Baggs is a painfully shy 14-year-old farm boy with a passion and talent for baseball. When Billy's antisocial father is sentenced to three months in jail for demolishing a used-car lot with his Caterpillar tractor, Billy, who must assume the responsibility for the family dairy farm, sees his dreams of playing City League summer baseball disappear overnight. Billy's mother, Mavis, organizes a ragtag farm team baseball league, which includes Mexican migrant workers, the girls next door, and even the family dog. The farm team proves surprisingly good and eventually challenges the city team to a game. This fast-moving, engaging novel will appeal not only to baseball fans, but also to anyone who enjoys the satisfaction of seeing the underdog triumph. Although there are a few stereotypes, among them, an overly protective Jewish mother, most of the characters are believable and well developed, and the action scenes, especially the baseball episodes, are particularly compelling. A sequel to *Striking Out* (1993), this will be welcomed by teens who already know Billy Baggs, but it easily stands on its own considerable merit. *Debbie Carton*

About the Author

Will Weaver is an award-winning fiction writer. His latest novel is *The Survivors*, a sequel to his popular young adult novel *Memory Boy*. His other books include *Full Service*, *Defect*, *Saturday Night Dirt*, *Super Stock Rookie*, *Checkered Flag Cheater*, *Claws*, and the Billy Baggs books *Striking Out*, *Farm Team*, and *Hard Ball*, all of which are ALA Best Books for Young Adults. Formerly an English professor at Bemidji State University, he lives in northern Minnesota, a region he writes from and loves. He is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys hunting, fishing, canoeing, and hiking with his family and friends.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Daniele Chambers:

The book *Farm Team* make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable far more

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Cheryl Steele:

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Amy Quist:

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