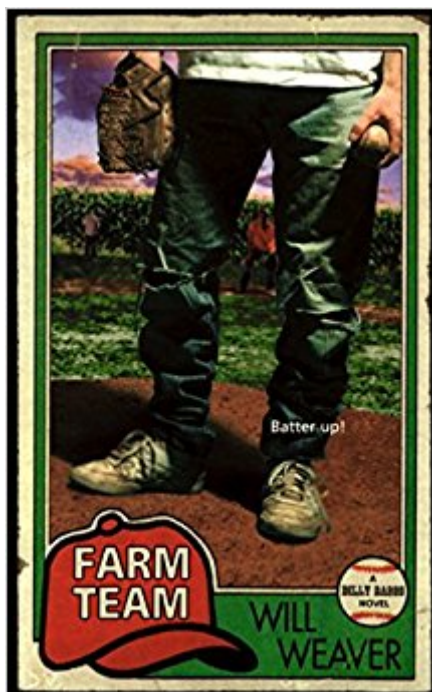


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# Farm Team



## Synopsis

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 in 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?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 7<sup>^</sup>-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 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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everyone needs these The seller is very nice. Whenever I asked for help, they replied me quickly. Very timely delivery and great product. After I bought it and use found no problems, I believe it is very durable. Now I am ordering again, to give my girlfriends, I'm sure she'll like it. Simple product but very effective. Great product for a reasonable price.

This was one of my favorite books that I have ever read. This book talks about a farm boy that wants s to play summer baseball, but he has to much work to do at home. During the winter his dad Abner bought a new car that he got from up town. He did not know that the bottom has been repainted and now it starting to fall apart. They have a big bulldozer and Abner likes to take things in his own hands, so he and Billy went to take the old cat up town so that he can ruin the cars and the office where he bought the car. The cars were all smashed and they started on fire. Abner then started to bulldozer down the office that is when the police showed up. They could not stop Abner

from ruining the car lot. Once Abner thought that he was done he quite and put the big cat back on to the trailer. Billy at the time was on top of the truck. It was time for the planting. That is why Abner got really mad when they made him go to jail. Billy is only fourteen and he had to bring the truck back home. Once he got home he had to get the milking done. Billy is a pitcher on the baseball team. He never had time to practice or to play, but he loved the sport. His coach said that he would help him out if he could just play baseball. Billy told him that there will always be a next year. Billy had to do the all the milking and feed all of the cows twice a day. He also has to do all the ground work and the planting. Billy's mom does not think that this is a very good ideal that Billy is going to run the farm this summer. She does not like it because she thinks that it will take his whole summer away from all of his friends. Billy this is all that he has ever wanted was to run the farm all by him. Then once he gets into summer he starts to miss his baseball. His mom and he build a baseball field out in the west pastor. They have baseball games every Friday night after the all the work is done. I have really enjoyed this book because I am a farmer. I also now what he is going through. A couple of years ago I had the choice to go and play baseball or to help out with the farm. I liked the book a lot and I would have done the same thing if I was Billy. The people that I think would like to read this book are people that are farm kids because I think that some of the terms that it uses in the book people would not understand what he is talking about when he does the milking and the feeding.

Farm Team was a good choice for me to choose. In a case where I do not like to read, this book caught my attention. Will Weaver wrote about a boy, Billy Baggs who never has time to play his favorite sport, baseball because he works on his farm so much. Billy loves baseball and wants to play it during the summer. He has so much work on his farm he has no time so his mother tells him to make a field on the farm. Billy is asked to play on his school team, but when his father gets him in trouble with the police he has little time to play at school. When Billy's father destroys a car lot Billy has to take over the farm for the summer because Abner got arrested for what he did. Abner destroyed the car lot because Randy Meyer's had sold Billy's mother a cheap car. It was rusted all over and the paint was chipping. Billy has little time to play so every Friday night he has baseball games on the field he made. This book was very entertaining to me. I haven't really found a book this good and that I have enjoyed and actually read. This book shows sacrifices people have to make to support their family. Farm Team kept my attention through the whole book. The most exciting scene I read about was when Abner destroyed the car lot. I could picture everything that was going on and the expressions on Randy Meyer's face. He was the car dealer that ripped off Billy's family. I could fully understand this book and what the author was representing. This

especially was a sports book which interests me even more. I can somewhat relate to stories about sports. Farm Team is a book I would recommend to anyone. It would be a great book to read to someone interested in sports and ways to help out others. The best part of the book is it's about a farm boy. It's a weird story but enjoyable for anybody.

Greed, envy, hate, jealousy, love, maturity, are all portrayed in the Billy Baggs novel by Will Weaver and Michael Koelsch. Farm Team is a classic novel of the angry farm kid against the popular town kid. The town coach wants Billy to pitch for his team because he has the strongest arm that he has ever seen on a boy his age. Of course, the town kid King Kenwood is the pitcher for the team, and is about to meet his match with Billy. Then, one day Billy's father Abner Baggs picks him up from school on his way to the crooked salesman's lot where he was sold a Chevrolet that doesn't run. Abner decides that he wants to get back at the crooked car salesman by destroying all of his cars and his lot. Abner is arrested for destruction of property and sent to jail which leaves Billy in charge of the farm. After a couple of weeks by himself on the farm, you could really notice Billy growing into a man, and he even took on the harsh attitude that his father always carried with him. Of course, Billy wasn't able to attend baseball practice, he wasn't even able to attend school. Billy's mother noticed his longing to play baseball so she suggested that they build their own field and make a farm team and play the town team. Billy loved the idea, and everyday after chores he would work on the field, and every Friday they would practice until the sun went down. The Farm team included only ten players, one of which was Billy's dog Skinner as a backup center fielder. Billy at pitcher, the two sisters, one at catcher and one at center field, the two brothers from Mexico, Big Danny boy at right field and three others. Finally, the big day came that the farm team would play the town team, it was going to be a great game. Who do you think walked away the winner that day?

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