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Falcons think '88 could be their best yet

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Farmington High School experienced its most successful season of girls soccer since taking up the sport last year, and the upcoming campaign holds promise of being even better.

The Falcons were 9-2-3 and finished second behind eventual state champion Plymouth Salem, a team they defeated once during the regular season, in the Lakes Division.

Like most teams, Farmington suffered some graduation losses, but it returns a number of quality players, including a solid group of forwards.

Coach Ed Bartram started three freshmen up front last year, and the trio produced excellent offensive results. Sophomore Carrie Maier received all-Observer and second-team, all-state honors after scoring 30 goals and chalking up 18 assists. Maier, who also is a sprinter on the girls track team, has become better, according to Bartram.

"I THINK SHE'S matured some," he said. "She's picked up some speed on the ball, which is unbelievable. She was fast last year, but she's even faster this year."

Fellow sophomores Margaret Martin and Amy Trunk give the Falcons a young but experienced front line that returns intact. Martin scored 21 goals and had 15 assists, and Trunk registered numbers of 12 and 13, respectively.

"The three freshmen had some shooting potential and speed, and we wanted to take as much advantage of it as we could," Bartram said. The Falcons scored 93 goals, nearly doubling their total of the previous year.

Bartram, who remains undecided about certain positions, is thinking of moving Martin to halfback as a replacement for her sister, all-star Leslie, who graduated last spring.

"We've got a lot of talent up front, and there's going to be some adjustments made as far as moving players around, depending on what's going on in the game," Bartram said.

JUNIOR JENNIFER Misuro, a co-captain, is Farmington's top returnee at halfback. She missed much of the season with a broken ankle, but returned in time to score nine goals and distribute 14 assists.

Seniors Heather Glennie and Missy Davis are other halfbacks who return, though Davis can also play forward. Bartram has thought of moving senior Stacy Shalm, who played defense last year, to midfield, but he might have to leave her where she was to meet a need at those positions.

The Falcons lost Amy Smith (stopper), Jennifer Cunningham (sweeper) and Karen Poppy, all of whom were three-year starters on defense. Farmington's ratio of goals scored and allowed was nearly 4-to-1 a year ago when the



Farmington's goalkeeping duties will rest on the shoulders of freshman Debbie Westerkamp, who replaces the graduated Cindi Rieden. The Falcons have plenty of offensive weapons

and should be among the area's best teams again. See Page 5D for a story on Farmington Hills Mercy's soccer team.

Falcons gave up a total of 26.

Junior Katie McDonald is the lone returning starter on defense, but sophomore Tanya Slicker, who played on the junior varsity, could help shore up some holes back there.

Bartram admits defense is the biggest question mark, but he is confident the players who eventually assume those roles will perform well and not lessen the effectiveness of what should be a potent offense.

"WE HAVEN'T GIVEN up a lot of goals the last couple years, but it's the area we have the least amount of experience compared to years past," he said.

"It's a little early to say if we can cover for those (graduation) losses, but I'm not doom-and-gloom right now," Farmington's Debbie Westerkamp replaces Cindi Rieden, another graduation

loss, as the goalkeeper.

"We will need to build up her confidence and allow her to develop," Bartram said. "But she has played (the position) a long time (on youth league teams) and seems to be pretty confident in herself."

With several major talents on offense and despite the apparent weakness on defense, Bartram, who thinks the Farmington schools are overdue in girls soccer, believes the Falcons are headed for their best season.

"Last year the girls did real well, and I believe we're going to be even better this year," he said.

"Between (Maier) and the other girls, I think there will be some people looking at us."

"We beat Salem once and lost to them once," he added. "I'd like to see us at the top of the division, and contending for the conference title."

Loss of top-notch hurler clouds Harrison outlook

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Whenever Heidi Reyst pitched last year for Farmington Hills Harrison, softball coach Mike Teachman knew what it would take to win.

"With Heidi, over the last 15 games, we knew the other team was only going to score one, two or three runs," Teachman recalls. "As a result, we could concentrate more on manufacturing runs."

"This year, I don't know if we'll need to score 10, six or two runs." Behind Reyst, a four-year starter, Harrison won nine of its last 11 games in 1987 and finished the year at 13-10.

So uncertainty remains, while Reyst graduated and new pitchers for Kalamazoo College. Reyst isn't Harrison's only loss to graduation. Also creating a vacancy by graduating was All-Observer honorable mention pitcher Theresa Spitz.

THE LEADING candidate to pitch this year is last year's catcher, junior Lisa Donovan.

Teachman isn't sure how Dono-

softball

van will react to her new position, but he said he can expect a 100-percent effort. Teachman added that calling games behind the plate last year will help Donovan on the mound.

"Since she caught last year, at least Lisa understands what happened to Heidi to make her so successful," Teachman said. "If Lisa gets control, we'll be in every game. Lisa has the potential to be like Heidi."

"We've got to remember that Lisa's time is not spent throwing a softball all year round. She plays volleyball, is in the band and is a very good student. You can't manufacture experience."

Kubat will throw. As it is, Teachman plans on using Kubat in second games of doubleheaders to give Donovan a rest.

Completing the battery is junior

catcher Darcy Pizal, whom Teachman calls a very intelligent player.

THE INFIELD play should be solid, especially up the middle, where sophomore shortstop Karen Najarian and second baseman Jenny Isenberg return.

"It looks like we've got a good fielding team; we've got girls who can catch and throw the ball," Teachman said. "The offense is unknown until we get outside more and face live pitching."

Najarian was brought up from the junior varsity level near the end of last year, and Isenberg returns as Teachman's leadoff hitter. In 1987, Isenberg scored more than 30 runs, and "that's what you want your leadoff hitter to do," Teachman said.

Batting cleanup will be center fielder Kerl Preiskorn, who led the team in RBIs and hit for a .343 average.

Flanking Preiskorn in right field is senior Dee Hight. Teachman calls her the team's most improved player over last year when she played on a part-time basis.

CC takes pair in debut

Reigning Class A baseball champion Redford Catholic Central picked up where it left off from last season, sweeping a double-header Saturday from 1986 state champion Ypsilanti, 11-6 and 4-2.

"It was a good start. . . I was happy," said CC coach John Salter. In the opener, senior shortstop Kevin Rogers capped a five-run rally with a game-winning RBI single in the top of the eighth. Mike Dorocak and John Gotts also singled in runs during the surge.

Rogers, Gotts and Dorocak each collected two hits as the Shamrocks out-hit the Braves, 11-6.

Host Ypsi had erased a 6-3 deficit with three runs in the bottom of the seventh to send the game into extra innings.

Chris Johnston, who pitched 1½ innings in relief of Mark Stanforth and starter Leo Hutchenon, picked up the win. Hutchenon gave up three runs over five innings.

In the nightcap, Dorocak took the mound and tossed a three-hitter,

baseball

striking out eight and walking only two. The senior right-hander also went 2-for-4, including a triple to go along with runs batted in.

"He threw only 80 pitches," said Salter of Dorocak. "He threw quite well."

CC broke a 2-3 deadlock in the sixth when Rogers reached base on an error. He eventually scored on a wild pitch. Matt Cannon then singled in Gotts with an insurance run.

The Shamrocks return to action Saturday against Holt in a double-header at Redford's Capitol Park. Game time is 4 p.m.

BORGESS 2-4, DIVINE CHILD 0-5: Redford Blabop Borgess opened its regular season Tuesday by splitting a twin bill with Dearborn Divine Child at

Capitol Park.

In the opener, right-hander Craig Karankiewicz struck out 14 and allowed just three hits as Borgess took a 2-0 victory.

The senior hurler had pinpoint control, walking only three while making only 56 pitches.

Junior designated hitter Loyd D'Angelo was the hitting star for Borgess, socking a 2-run homer in the fifth inning.

In the nightcap, Dennis Hamilton pitched a complete game and belted a 3-run homer in the third to lead the Falcons to a 5-4 triumph.

Hamilton scattered six hits over seven innings. He struck out 14 and walked nine.

Bob Elliott, the Borgess starter and closer, went the first 3½ innings. Paul Drealinski came on to pitch 2½ innings of scoreless relief.

Borgess trailed 5-1 through four innings before picking up two in the fifth on a double by Steve Coffey. They added another in the seventh on a sacrifice fly by Coffey, who went 3-for-3 with three RBIs.

The Spartans had scored earlier when John Coffey raced home on a DC error in the third inning.



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