



Darcy Pinzi started last year at catcher when Lisa Donovan was tried as a pitcher, but Donovan is back behind the plate and Pinzi in center field for the 1989 softball season.

Pitching will determine Harrison course in '89

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Farmington Hills Harrison's softball fortunes once again will revolve around an uncertain pitching situation.

If the Hawks get the needed input from their pitchers, coach Mike Teachman believes Harrison can expect to be improved over last season. Thus, the Hawks are cautiously optimistic at this early stage, he said.

Harrison had a poor start last year before Keri Priksorn emerged as a respectable pitcher for the Hawks, who finished 5-14.

"We discovered her half way through the season and now she's gone," Teachman said.

"She made us competitive, because she could get the ball over the plate — and she was a good hitter. She was our clean-up hitter."

Having graduated its top pitcher, Harrison will have to find a replacement from among a trio of candidates.

SENIOR LISA Skibinski, who didn't play last year, is apt to fill Priksorn's former role, senior Robin Cohen returns and Teachman plans to groom sophomore Shellie Bowers for the future.

"We have a good fielding group,

softball

and early on it looks like we're going to be a good hitting group," Teachman said. "The question is do we have pitchers who can get the ball over the plate?"

In addition to Cohen, the Hawks return six others who combine to give Harrison a nucleus of veterans in the field.

If Teachman is worried about his pitching, he doesn't have to worry about the other half of the battery. Senior Lisa Donovan begins her fourth year as the starting catcher.

Junior Karen Najarian, a 300-plus hitter, returns at shortstop and will bat third in the order.

"She made some sophomore errors last year but really looks sharp and is capable of hitting a ton," Teachman said.

Cohen started most games at third base and will probably start there if she isn't pitching. As the lead-off batter, Teachman is counting on help from her offensively.

"HOPEFULLY, SHE'LL spark our offense by getting on base and scoring some runs," he said.

While Teachman is uncertain about his lineup at this early date, senior returns Sue Kubat and Jenny Rick are possible starters at first and second base, respectively. Rick also can play in the outfield.

Senior Darcy Pinzi, who finished the 1988 season in center field after getting a tryout at catcher, will begin the new year at that position. She hit .260 a year ago.

"We're trying to get her to be more aggressive at the plate, because she can swing a live bat," Teachman said.

Senior Danielle Clervi, a line-drive hitter who had a .250 average last year, is the last returning player and will probably start in left field.

"At Harrison, our immediate goal is to be competitive," Teachman said. "We're certainly not going to throw ourselves up there with Northville and (Plymouth) Canton, not with the pitching they've got back. We have to be able to pitch and field the ball."

Observer recognizes area talent

Continued from Page 1

"NAMI handled the pressure of running our team very well," said Mercy coach Tim DeBeliso. "She has excellent athletic ability and has the potential to be a top-flight setter."

Anne Marie Moss, Red. Thurston: One of the area's most unheralded players, Moss, a four-year starter and team captain, averaged three kills per game during her senior year.

She served at an 86 percent clip, including 45 aces. Moss did not miss a serve in 28 games. Her serve and attack reception averages were 72 and 85 percent, respectively.

With 219 kills this season, Thurston coach Bob Burns called Moss "a powerful hitter who also excels defensively." "Through all her varsity years, she has consistently demonstrated a volleyball commitment. She's a true leader who understands practice time, team play and school spirit."

Glenda Cobrea, Wayne: A senior, Cobrea is a two-time All-Wolverine A League pick. She won the team's Best Defensive Player trophy and led the team with 61 ace serves and 154 kills.

"Glenda has a natural 'quick reaction' to make great plays look easy," said the Wayne coach. "She is one defensive player that will be difficult, if not impossible to replace."

"Her lights were always set to benefit the team."

Christy Clark, Liv. Churchill: An All-Western Division (WLA) selection, Clark directed the Chargers' attack with 1,292 sets in 1,310 attempts for a 98.6 percent average. She also served at a 84 percent clip and averaged 3.7 digs per match.

"Christy back-cut the ball as well as anyone in the area," said the Churchill coach of the 5-4 dynamo. "Last year she was a defensive specialist and this year she prevented opposing hitters from going down the line against our defense."

"As the year developed, Christy gained experience and became confident that she could take any five hitters and win."

Jennifer Goff, Farmington Mercy: The junior outside hitter was voted a first-team All-Catholic and All-Oakland County (Oakland Press) pick. She averaged 2.64 kills and 2.8 digs per game.

Goff was an 89 percent server and averaged 29 percent with her kills.

"Jenny showed steady improvement all year in her hitting, but her most dramatic improvement, and what contributed to her becoming a good all-around player, was her passing and defense," said DeBeliso. "She has a great work ethic and the proper attitude. She has the desire to become a great player."

Melissa Mars, Bishop Borgosa: The 5-10 outside hitter averaged 2.5 kills and 2.4 digs per game. She blocked at a .239 clip and served at 88 percent.

Mars has led Borgosa to over 100 victories as a three-

year starter. This season she made All-Division, All-Catholic and All-Region.

"Melissa will be hard to replace," said Borgosa's Jerry Abraham, who has signed Mars on to play for him at Madonna College.

Debbie Weintraub, N. Farmington: The 5-3 senior paced the Raiders to an impressive 28-7 record.

From the back row she scored 219 points out of 381 serve tries, she missed only 12 serves in 393 attempts this season.

Directing North's 4-2 offensive set, Weintraub set up 612 kills and added 140 digs.

The All-WLAA pick was definitely the team leader, according to North coach Sandy Lubienicki.

"She had that special quality that pulled the girls together," Lubienicki said. "She got the ball to the hitters and played 'team volleyball'."

Karl Domanak, Liv. Ladywood: The 5-9 junior provided the missing piece to the Blazers' state championship puzzle, assuming the role as the team's setter.

"She's probably the only one in the state who plays a 5-1 (alignment) as both a setter and middle blocker," Teeters said. "She's the kind of person who likes a challenge. We chose her as our floor captain."

A two-year starter, Domanak's older sister Dana also was a member of the All-Area squad (third team).

Karl is All-Area team's top student, carrying a 4.0 grade-point average in accelerated courses. She is only 15 years old and will be back next season.



Christy Clark
Churchill



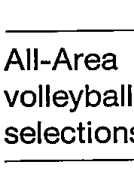
Anne Marie Moss
Thurston



Melissa Mars
Bishop Borgosa



Glenda Cobrea
Wayne Memorial



Tom Teeters
Livonia Ladywood

All-Area volleyball selections

swimming

The Clarensville Cohoes' Bob Holdridge and Audra Martin each garnered individual firsts March 17-19 at the state short course swim championships held at Michigan State University's McCaffrey Pool and Lansing Community College.

Holdridge was clocked in 1:50.95 in winning the 200-yard freestyle for Boys 13-14. He also placed in five other events including a third in the 100 freestyle (51.07); fourth, 500 freestyle (5:06.15); sixth, 200 individual medley (2:11.18) and 50 freestyle (23.67); eighth, 100 backstroke (51.07).

Martin, a student at Livonia Churchill High, captured the 100 backstroke for Girls 17-18 in 1:11.13. She also placed second in three other events for the Clarensville Swim Club: 100 butterfly (1:00.9), 200 IM (2:14.99) and 400 IM (4:45.13).

OTHER C-VILLE FINISHERS

Girls 13-14: Jamie Anderson — fourth place, 1,000 freestyle (11:06.62) and 1,650 freestyle (18:15.21); 11th, 500 freestyle (5:30.75); Teri Adams — fifth, 200 butterfly (2:23.71); 10th, 200 backstroke (2:33.91); 12th, 400 individual medley (4:58.87); 10th, 100 backstroke (1:11.08); Nancy Warner — seventh, 100 butterfly (1:01.83); 10th, 500 freestyle (5:29.01); 11th, 200 backstroke (2:25.42); Jennifer Knapp — second, 200 backstroke (2:29.37); 10th, 200 IM (2:18.01).

Boys 13-14: Gordy Gatewood — fourth, 100 IM (2:09.39) and 200 butterfly (2:11.41); seventh, 400 IM (4:42.32); ninth, 200 freestyle (1:56.91); Chris True — 11th, 100 backstroke (1:20.54).

Girls 15-18: Megan Holmberg — fourth, 200 backstroke (1:16.76); seventh, 100 backstroke (1:04.25); 10th, 200 IM (2:20.4); 12th, 200 freestyle (2:03.78); Gina Bernelli — ninth, 100 backstroke (1:06.32); 12th, 200 backstroke (2:24.1).

Boys 15-18: G.T. Moell — ninth, 1,000 freestyle (10:28.15).

Girls 17-18: Angela Neville — third, 100 backstroke (1:15.39); seventh, 200 IM (2:23.13).

RELAY RESULTS

Girls 13-14: Nancy Warner, Jennifer Knapp, Jamie Anderson and Teri Adams — fourth, 800 freestyle (8:26.01) and 400 medley (4:05.42); seventh, 400 freestyle (5:40.0).

Boys 13-14: Chris True, Gordy Gatewood, John Brogan and Bob Holdridge — ninth, 800 freestyle (7:52.32); Aaron Carls, Gatewood, Brogan and Holdridge — third, 400 freestyle (3:32.29); sixth, 400 medley (4:07.03).

Marlins expect to do well in '89

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Larabell, a sophomore, has the job all to herself.

"MOST OF OUR girls are mid-fielders or forwards," said Kilmes. "I've got to find out who likes defense."

The leading returnee is sophomore left winger Dana Lehmkuhl, an 18-goal scorer last year. Also returning to the front line are sophomore Michelle Geyer, who scored eight goals and had eight assists, and junior Kathy McDonald, who tallied nine goals and four assists.

Junior halfbacks Anne Scullen and Carrie Bowler aren't as impressive statistically, but both were good enough to garner all-Central Division honors. Sophomore Kathryn Dudley, the team's fastest player, also will contribute defensively.

Kilmes believes he has a gem in Lehmkuhl.

"She has great offensive skills and a great left foot," Kilmes said. "She'll be a premier all-star. There's a lot of soccer sense in her."

THE ONLY senior on the roster is halfback Erica James, who notched two goals and three assists for Mercy a year ago. Other contributions will come from sophomores Laurie Chap, Suzie Atkinson, Ann Duwell and Colleen O'Conner. Juniors Rachel Demasie and Denna Wilhelm also are expected to play significant roles.

The Catholic League will have a two-division schedule this year, with Mercy playing in the same division as the other teams in each division will decide the league crown in the post-season.

How will Mercy fare? Who better to ask than Fogel, a veteran of the Catholic League.

"It depends on how quick the new kids can mesh this year, because the Catholic League will be stronger," Fogel predicted. "Any of them in our division can win. One thing I like is we play a home-and-home schedule with the teams in our division."

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