

Sports

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Marlins have one of best in Edward

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Farmington Hills Mercy has one major advantage over the softball teams it will play: Amy Edward.

The senior pitcher is the best player in Observeland, and she alone makes the Marlins bonafide contenders in the Catholic League.

Edward has been Mercy's ace the last two seasons and has compiled a career record of 55-19-1. She was 25-9-1 as a junior, posting 167 strikeouts and a 1.37 earned run average.

"She's changed her motion a little bit and added some speed," coach Suzanne Brown said. "She'll have the opportunity to throw some pitches that are starting to move."

Edward's talent is not limited to the pitching mound, however. The obvious college prospect can swing the bat, too.

"I FEEL she's a future Division I player," Brown added. "She can pitch at most Division I schools, but what impresses most coaches is her hitting."

After batting .400 as a freshman and .300 as a sophomore, Edward hit an astounding .715 last year. Her offensive stats included 21 doubles, eight triples, three homers and 47 RBI. Furthermore, she struck out only twice.

"She's one player who can hit a hard ground ball and get on base, because the defense can't handle it," Brown said.

Mercy's talent is not limited to Edward, and the Marlins, who were 25-9 and won a district title last year, should have a good supporting cast.

Another key player is center fielder Kerry Sayers, who also was an all-Observeland selection and is one of four seniors on the 1989 ballclub. Brown thought about putting Sayers at shortstop but decided she was needed more in the outfield.

"Kerry has a great glove, a great sense of the ball," Brown said. "She



RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Amy Edward won all-area honors last year and is one of the top players in Observeland. She won 20-plus games and hit over .700 in her junior season.

has a good arm and will be instrumental at the plate, like Edward."

IN FACT, Brown has moved Sayers from No. 2 in the batting order to the cleanup position behind Edward. Senior Pam Thompson will lead off, and freshman Kathleen Berrigan will bat second.

"Amy can bring those two in, but then we have no one to bring Amy in," Brown said, implying confidence

in Sayers to get the job done.

Sayers, a four-year varsity player as is Edward, hit .421 and also had 23 RBI, nine sacrifices, 14 walks and seven stolen bases last year.

Thompson will move from right field to second base and fill a need created at that position when senior Lisa Cook, the would-be starter, didn't come out for the team.

The fourth senior, Jenny Goodek, started at third base but moves

softball

across the infield to first. Thompson and Goodek are third-year varsity members.

Cyndi Viall, who had started in left field, chose not to play her senior year, either. She and Cook are near-perfect students and are concentrating on college preparations, according to Brown.

"IT SEEMS these are things that happen, and you wonder what the reasons are," she said, "but there always seems to be a blessing around the corner."

Brown will be forced to put some younger players in starting roles sooner, but she also sees potential in them. Plus, they'll gain needed experience.

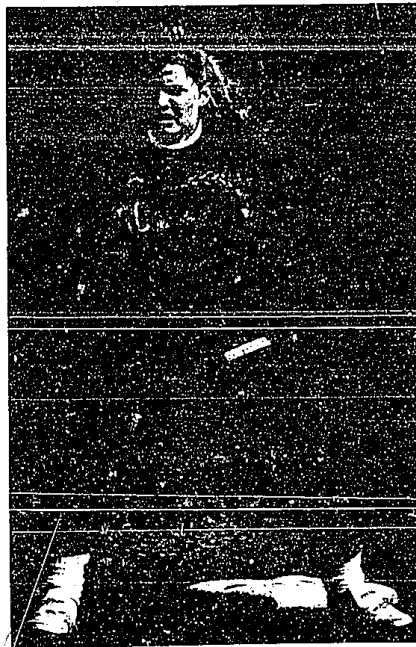
Sophomore Moe Paulin, a returning varsity player, will take Goodek's place at third and also serve as the back-up pitcher. Lee Albrecht, another varsity holdover, will start in left field. The 5-foot-11 junior was the center on the basketball team last fall, and Brown thinks she has the potential to be a power hitter.

"We're trying to change her stance a little and get her into that mold," she said. "She can move well for a big girl. She dove for three balls (in a Wednesday) scrimmage and got three. I was impressed that she can move like that."

Completing the infield is Berrigan at shortstop, which is in itself a statement of her ability that Brown would put a freshman at that position.

"She's a natural athlete, and the kid is quick," Brown said. "She covers a lot of ground."

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RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Kerry Sayers is a veteran center fielder who returns after an excellent junior season in which she was named to the all-Observeland squad.

N. Farmington short of varsity experience

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

A year ago, North Farmington baseball coach Iv Horwitz had too many upperclassmen and too few underclassmen in his program.

The dilemma facing Horwitz this year is just the opposite. The Raiders have too few upperclassmen and too many underclassmen.

The latter is good in terms of the future, but the freshmen and sophomores will be on the junior varsity this year.

Due to the wide gap between veteran players and incoming talent last year, Horwitz had a senior-dominated varsity and a JV ballclub stocked mostly by juniors.

Thus, the Raiders have only two players back from a team that finished 6-11. North was 3-7 in the Lakes Division and 5-11 in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

"I THINK we're going to be a spilling team," Horwitz said. "I don't know how we can compete, because the league is so tough and we don't have the experience."

"I hope when John Glenn and Plymouth Salem come over they don't think it's North Farmington and an easy win."

Joe Sturtz
veteran outfielder

"We have a good crop of freshmen and sophomores, so maybe they'll help us the next couple years," he added. "They'll get some experience, and we'll have them coming back."

Though few in numbers, the Raiders do have a pair of good players in varsity holdovers Joe Sturtz and Jerry Hakala, both of whom are seniors.

Sturtz, a member of the All-Observeland football team last fall, will

play center field again and should be one of the top baseball players in the area.

He had what was a down year for him in 1988, hitting .325 with four homers and nine RBI. Sturtz hit close to .400 and had more home runs and RBI as a sophomore.

"HE COULD play somewhere in college if he has a good spring and summer given his reputation and the way he played last summer," Horwitz said.

"I don't think he got what he wanted (in terms of an athletic scholarship) in football. I know they're harder to get in baseball, but I think he can do it."

It was thought Sturtz had suffered a broken hand at the end of the basketball season, but it was a leg sprain instead. He will be in the lineup for Wednesday's season opener at Bloomfield Hills Lahser, but Hakala wasn't so fortunate in avoiding injury.

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RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Jerry Hakala is one of only two returning varsity players on the North Farmington baseball team, but he will miss the first month of the

season while he continues to recover from a dislocated shoulder. Center fielder Joe Sturtz is the other returnee.

Mission accomplished for Stingrays

When the Farmington Hills-based Michigan Stingrays Swim Club registered 209 age-group swimmers last fall, coach Peter Leonhardt set three goals for his tankers.

One was to improve the swim instruction for the 12-and-under swimmers. Secondly, he wanted to qualify as many boys and girls as possible for the United States Swimming finals in March and retain the club's state title.

The third goal was to finish in the top 10 at the Junior Olympics Short-Course East Swim Championships in Pensacola, Fla. The Stingrays completed their quest the weekend of April 2-5 when they placed ninth in the national meet.

"Our goals were met," Leonhardt said. "All of our swimmers — boys and girls, experienced and those on the rise — each played a part in our team's success."

The Stingray girls earned 93 points to place ninth out of 75 teams in the University

of West Florida's natatorium.

LEONHARDT put the 12-and-under program under the direction of assistant coach Chuck McClune, who coached that age group to a second-place finish at the state meet in early March. That helped set the stage for the Stingray's overall victory two weeks later when the 13-14, 15-16 and 17-18 swimmers competed.

Goal No. 2 became a reality when the club's older swimmers competed in their state meet. The combined results of all age groups netted the club over 2,000 points and first place among 75 teams from across the state.

To meet the third goal, Allisa Gowing, Owen Rowlands, Kerry Doran, Katie Knipper, Danielle Frotter and Alissa Goldstein made qualifying cuts in 16 individual events and three relays.

Rowlands, Doran and Goldstein scored in-



dividual points. Goldstein excelled in her freestyle events, placing fifth in the 500-yard event (4:36.63), 10th in the 1,000 (10:10.10) and 12th in the 200 (1:33.94).

Rowlands was 16th in the 100-yard freestyle (53.14), and Doran was eighth in the 400 individual medley (4:39.95) and 16th in the 200 IM (4:39.23).

In the relays, Rowlands, Frotter, Doran and Goldstein placed third in the 400 freestyle with a time of 3:32.16. The time also qualified them for the Senior Nationals in long-course, competition next August in Los Angeles.

THE 800 freestyle relay of Gowing, Row-

lands, Doran and Goldstein placed eighth (7:40.67), and the 400 medley team of Frotter, Knipper, Doran and Rowlands finished 19th (4:01.63).

Other Stingray times were Knipper's 1:03.42 in the 100 breaststroke, Rowlands' 1:34.91 and Gowing's 1:55.40 in the 200 freestyle and Frotter's 2:43.33 in the 50 freestyle.

Leonhardt said assistant coach Jeff Cooper, a former swim star at Oakland University, was a good addition this season.

"Jeff instilled a swim-join-best attitude in our older kids," he said. "With Cooper and McClune assisting me, we are building a reputation as the state's finest competitive swim club."

As for future objectives, Leonhardt hopes to qualify a good many swimmers for the state long-course championships in which the Stingrays will serve as the host team in August and the Junior National long-course meet in Buffalo the same month.

In addition to the Stingrays, other area swimmers did well at the Pensacola meet. Annette Salmoen of Ann Arbor was the lone Michigan swimmer to capture a first-place medal. She tied for first in the 200 butterfly with a time of 2:02.63.

RON ORRIS of the Livonia Spartans Aquatic Club placed third in the 200 IM (1:32.59). The Plymouth Salem High School junior also was 15th in the 500 freestyle (4:23.84). Clarenceville Swim Club's Jennifer Knapp tied for 18th in the 100 breaststroke with a 1:07.37.

The Pensacola meet had other highlights, too. Darby Chang, a 19-year-old from Virginia Beach, Va., claimed first place in the 100 butterfly with a national age-group record of 56.21, and 16-year-old Barbara Bedford of New Jersey broke the national junior record in the girls 200 IM with a time of 2:03.61.