

Falcons, Hawks have pitching vets

Continued from Page 1

"Last year she was kinda timid at the plate," Brubaker said. "She did say she was a little afraid of getting hit. I told her 'You have to realize as a hitter you might get hit but you can't think about it.' After we talked about it, she hit .450 last summer and did real well."

Junior Karen Seremet played shortstop last year, but Brubaker moved her to third base where she is challenging senior Andrea Borelo. Seremet has the better glove and Borelo the better bat, according to Brubaker.

"I wanted (Seremet) to concentrate more on her pitching instead of worrying about being the defensive leader at shortstop," Brubaker said, adding he wants to groom Seremet, who was 3-0, to be the No. 1 pitcher next year.

Botwick moves from center field to shortstop in the reshuffled lineup, providing a little more quickness.

"There has not been a better defensive outfielder in the league that I've seen," Brubaker said. Botwick hit .243 and had 24 walks and 17 stolen bases. She also scored 27 runs.

Freshman Allison Stein will provide backup at second base and shortstop.

"I see her anchoring the infield the next three years," Brubaker said, "but this year I want to bring her along slowly. She will get playing time."

softball

One of two juniors, left-handed Kirsten Schutt or right-handed Alicia Romig, will play first base.

The outfield will consist of junior Katie Bohne in right, sophomore Michelle Bohne in center and junior Tanya Proctor in left. Michelle Bohne hit .309 and made only two errors in right field last year. Katie Bohne missed most of last season with a hip injury.

The varsity roster also includes junior catcher Tammi Conti, junior infielders Tammy Pierce and Traci Gustke and sophomore pitcher Patti Eshaki.

North was 12-5 last year and hopes to do even better in Brubaker's fourth year as coach.

"The girls who are seniors have been here as long as I have," Brubaker said. "This is the best team I've had so far, so I am looking for good things. We have a good ball club, and we hope to be there at the end."

FARMINGTON

Julie Ingalls, a former Farmington High softball player, takes over for former coach Rich Roy, who resigned after 11 seasons.

"I think our strength this season is that I'm starting over and going back to the basic fundamentals with every girl," Ingalls said. "The girls should know what to do in every situation. We will be fundamentally sound."

Farmington returns six starters, including senior pitchers Cory Wojcik and Patti Hansen. Other returning starters are seniors Angela Farr, third base; Shannon Dudley, first base; Kerri Finlayson, left field; and Jill Trola, center field.

Newcomers who will make an impact for the Falcons are junior shortstop Nicole Noch, freshman second baseman Jenny Sever and junior catcher Maria Hahn.

"I think our infield will be very strong," Ingalls said. "We should be strong up the middle with Noch and Sever. They work real well together. I have a real coachable group of girls."

Pitching, though, is the major concern for the Falcons.

"I guess in the past Cory and Patti have been wild, but we've worked all spring and we hope to get it going," Ingalls said. "That's my only concern. Everything else is going real well."

Ingalls won't predict where Farmington will finish, although she promises to be competitive.

"We should be in every game," she said. "I think the potential is there to have a good season. We've got the right players coming out, but we have to come mentally ready to play every day."

"As far as first, second or third (in the Western Lakes Activities Association), I don't know because I haven't seen any varsity teams. I know Livonia Franklin, Walled Lake Central and Plymouth Canton will be good."

Ingalls said she is pleased to be back at her alma mater after coaching the junior varsity at rival North Farmington.

"It's a nice experience to come back and coach at Farmington," she said. "I played here and it's nice to replace the coach I played for at Farmington."

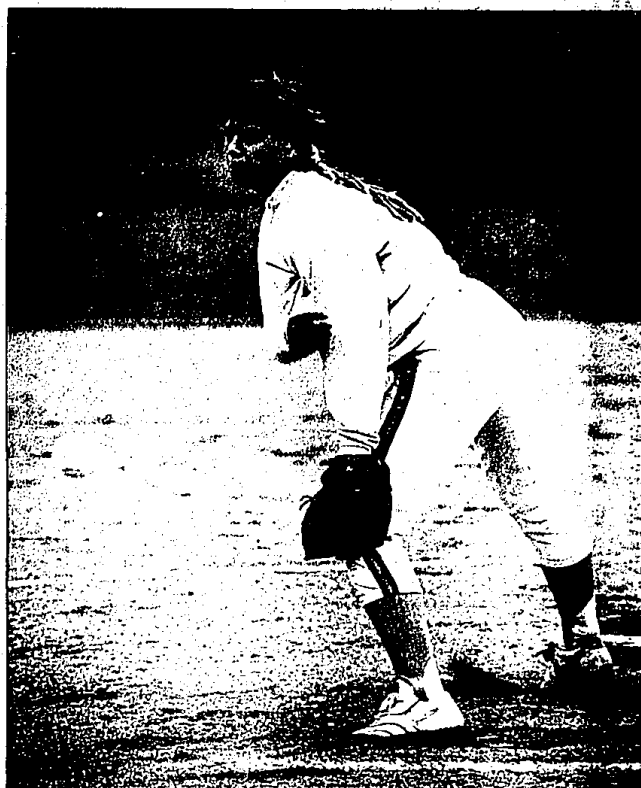
FARM, HARRISON

Coach Mike Teachman hopes Andrea Najarian picks up where her sister, Karen, left off last season.

The older Najarian, a four-year starter at shortstop, is the only significant loss from a team that was 2-19 last season.

Andrea, a junior, along with senior pitcher Shelly Bouwens, will be the heart of the Hawks this season.

"We're going to have to fill one po-



FILE PHOTO

Shelly Bouwens returns for her senior season and is being counted on to help the Hawks improve in 1991.

sition that I didn't have to look at for the last four years," Teachman said. "But we've got our backbone back -- our pitcher and our catcher."

Bouwens ended last season on a high note, allowing only 15 hits in her last 47 innings. She also had 57 strikeouts in that period.

In all, Harrison returns seven players, including six seniors. Other returnees are second basemen Jodie Watson and Becki Rounds; first baseman Jenny Gayette; outfielder Melanie Alcantara and junior Lisa Geary.

Sophomore Heather Hopkins, an outstanding basketball player, will play a major role in her first year at first base in the outfield and at designated hitter.

"We should compete this season," Teachman said. "For us to be a championship-caliber team, we would have to peak around tournament time. Our (WLA) league is tough with Canton and Franklin, who went to the finals last year."

"I don't know how good we will be because of (a lack of overall) experience. The key to this year is how

quickly they learn the fast-pitch game."

A major concern will be pitching and fielding. The Hawks lost a mercy game in which the other team didn't hit a ball out of the infield, and Harrison lost another game despite having a no-hitter.

"They got all of their runs off bunts and stealing," said Teachman of the latter game. "We have to get the ball over the plate and field."

"Sports Editor Dan O'Meara contributed to this story."



FILE PHOTO

Kerri Finlayson (left) makes a play at second base in '90 competition and returns to play for Farmington again.

Adray League becomes part of history

Continued from Page 1

THE DECISION to drop the league has many ramifications.

Many players will be scrambling for places in other leagues (including Livonia), said former Redford Union High coach Stu Rose. Rose is now head coach at Henry Ford Community College and assistant under Bob Atkins in the summer league for the Adray Appliance team.

"I have 19 kids I'm trying to place right now. It's a sad thing for northern baseball. It (the Detroit league) prevented southern and western teams from stockpiling players."

MANY OF THE top area players at local colleges are defected in recent years to leagues outside Michigan to such leagues as the Great

Lakes circuit, based in Ohio (where wooden bats are required), along with the Cape Cod, Mass., Alaska and the Basin leagues.

Adray has also been irritated at some area college coaches for sending their players out of state.

"Cape Cod is usually the No. 1 choice and Alaska, too. I've been asking myself, 'how come we haven't been more competitive (at the AAABA tourney in Johnston)?"

"WE HADN'T won a national title since 1978."

"Then I found out the coaches were not sending their best players to our league like Bud Middaugh (ex-UM coach). He kept sending players to the Basin and Cape Cod leagues."

"It actually came to me in a round-about way, and I didn't like it

baseball

one bit. It was not in the best interest of sandlot baseball."

Middaugh was embroiled in controversy both inside and outside of the Detroit Adray League.

One summer, while coaching Adray Sound, Middaugh's team consisted of U-M recruits and underclassmen. The team got caught using an ineligible player. And during his stint at Michigan he resigned in the wake of a Big Ten and NCAA investigation where major rules violations occurred.

ADRAY, WHO helps sponsor nearly 700 Little League and sandlot teams through local community recreation departments and 213 hockey teams in his Adray Community League, said amateur baseball is in "deep trouble."

"Below the AAABA level, they are losing interest. Where are they going

to get the seed or potential?" "Sandlot (college-age) baseball has been the backbone, but I see it deteriorating. I've kissed it down the river. It doesn't pay its way. At one time it did."

ADRAY FEELS short circuited by the league's former players, citing a lack of gratification toward his sponsorship.

Many top-notch people have represented the Detroit Adray League at the national tournament. Barry Larkin, Chris Sabo, Bob Welch, Orel Herschler, Frank Tanana, Ernie Whitt and Sheridan.

"We've had over 100 in the majors, but I never see or hear from them. Steve Harvey (ex-major league All-Star) has written me. He's a class guy, but very few respond even when I request a picture."

"I guess they're too busy. It's like the old sponsor doesn't even exist."

THE EIGHT-TEAM "Livonia League should get a lot of players."

"There will definitely be more kids out there looking for a place to

play," said Mike Keller, manager of the Walter's Appliance, Livonia league playoff champs. "I don't think it will have an initial impact this year, but a couple of years down the road it will happen."

I haven't gotten any calls yet, but when the weather breaks in early May, it may happen."

Another Livonia coach, Ray Fracassi (formerly Duffy's Plumbing), said one league coach already contacted players at U-M.

"THERE'S GOT to be an overload, but where are these guys?" Fracassi asked. "I have no idea who's out there. I've had only two calls."

The Livonia league, which gets an automatic bid this summer to Johnston, has residency rules restrictions. Livonia-based teams must have six residents, while other teams outside the city require eight insiders.

The Detroit decision affects the league's most successful coach, Bob Atkins, now an assistant at U-D Mercy and athletic director for the Walled Lake Schools.

THE ADRAY Appliance coach, who also served last summer as the Detroit Adray League director, recently underwent double bypass heart surgery.

"He'll still handle it all," Adray said. "He has the game-plan as far as our other summer baseball programs which we have all over the metro area and various cities."

"My thrust for now is going to be the little kids and the Class E, D and G leagues. I'm just cutting back on the AAABA portion. Unfortunately I'm out of it, but I'm not happy."

THE DECISION to drop the Detroit Adray League also affects the annual sandlot all-star games each July at Tiger Stadium between the Detroit, Livonia and Lansing leagues (which Adray also sponsors).

"There will be no more All-Star game and no (AAABA) regionals here," Adray said.

"It would be nice if some outside company would foot the bill for that and let the kids play," Keller said. But without Adray, the portable camcorders are out of service.

DENNIS RODMAN

ALL-STAR BASKETBALL CAMPS!

University of Michigan Ann Arbor August 5-9 4001 University (313) 593-5340	University of Windsor Windsor, Ontario July 15-19 16 Community Centre (519) 253-4232 ext. 1039	Toledo, Ohio Toledo, Ohio July 5-12 50355 Oregon Rd. (419) 646-6560 ext. 807
--	--	--

Morning Session 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. or Afternoon Session 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
 The All-Star Basketball Camps are Open to Boys & Girls ages 7-16.

U.S. and Canadian Residents:

- Games
- Contexts
- Shooting Instructions
- Fundamentals

For More Information on Camps or on Joining the Dennis Rodman Fan Club Call (313) 458-6501
 Fee \$170 (Canadian \$195) Limited Enrollment. Register by May 31st

Dennis will be in attendance at every session, Every Day!
 Guest speakers will include other Piston Players and Coaches.

Pick Up a Registration Form At Any Participating Pizza Hut

Adray Single Special Promotion: Three All-Star Games & Three All-Star Players. Ceremony at the end of each camp. Free food. Free T-shirt. Free Pizza. Free Ticket. Free All-Star Game. Free All-Star Game. Free All-Star Game.

Pizza Hut

CANTON SOFTBALL CENTER

THE AREA'S PREMIER PRIVATE SOFTBALL PARK

EXCITING NEW SCHEDULE
 SINGLE & DOUBLEHEADER GAMES EACH SEASON!

REGISTER NOW - 2 SEASONS
 Spring - April 14-July 21
 Summer - July 22-Oct. 6

- ✓ 18 GAMES - \$295.00
- ✓ NO RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS
- ✓ YOUR CHOICE OF DAYS
- ✓ MEN'S, WOMEN'S & COED
- ✓ 12 LIGHTED DIAMONDS

TOURNAMENTS EVERY WEEKEND * CALL FOR 1991 SCHEDULE
 Kick off the season with our EARLY BIRD TOURNAMENT, APRIL 12-14
 4 GAME GUARANTEE - \$95.00 (ump)

CANTON SOFTBALL CENTER (313) 483-5600/ext. 2 or 3
 46555 W. Michigan Ave., Canton, MI 48188
 Conveniently located just minutes from all area freeways

CANTON SOFTBALL CENTER

THE AREA'S PREMIER PRIVATE SOFTBALL PARK

EXCITING NEW SCHEDULE
 SINGLE & DOUBLEHEADER GAMES EACH SEASON!

REGISTER NOW - 2 SEASONS
 Spring - April 14-July 21
 Summer - July 22-Oct. 6

- ✓ 18 GAMES - \$295.00
- ✓ NO RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS
- ✓ YOUR CHOICE OF DAYS
- ✓ MEN'S, WOMEN'S & COED
- ✓ 12 LIGHTED DIAMONDS

TOURNAMENTS EVERY WEEKEND * CALL FOR 1991 SCHEDULE
 Kick off the season with our EARLY BIRD TOURNAMENT, APRIL 12-14
 4 GAME GUARANTEE - \$95.00 (ump)

CANTON SOFTBALL CENTER (313) 483-5600/ext. 2 or 3
 46555 W. Michigan Ave., Canton, MI 48188
 Conveniently located just minutes from all area freeways