



Safe at second: Farmington senior outfielder Beth Hawald slides safely into second base during a game against Westland John Glenn last year.

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Farmington also has its pitcher back at junior left-hander Alana Heikkinen, who often times deserved a better fate last season, according to Osborne.

"We didn't lose games because of her last year," he said. "She gave up less than crushing a game, so she did her job and threw a lot of strikes. She's a little stronger and throwing the ball harder this year."

Heikkinen was one of the top two hitters at the end of last season and is "just crushing the ball" and will hit in the cleanup spot this year, Osborne said.

On the receiving end of Heikkinen's pitches will be junior catcher Maureen Carolan, whom Osborne hopes will have a big year offensively, too.

"She's a good contact hitter and a good bunter," he said, adding Carolan will hit at the top of the order. "She's a smart player and she gives you everything she's got back there."

Junior Sarah Rattai, who sat out last year because of the transfer rule, steps into a new position at first base. She moves the ball around and is quick on the bases, Osborne said.

The Falcons lost one of their most consistent hitters when Lindsey Piel graduated, and her job at second base will be filled by freshman Anna Clark, one of the fastest players on the team.

"She has to get her confidence, but she'll be a good one in the next couple years," Osborne said. "She can cover a lot of ground, and she puts the ball in play."

Farmington has another veteran at third base in third-year starter Kristin Siskosky, who is good with the glove at a key position.

"She will always make the smart, heads-up play for us," Osborne said, adding Siskosky is a good complement to Heikkinen in the middle of the batting order.

Senior Beth Hawald, a left-handed hitter with good speed and glove, returns as the starting left fielder and is a solid all-around player.

Senior returnee Katie Lukasiak begins her third season on the varsity and will split time in left field with senior Dorrine McLean.

"They're the same as far as defense," Osborne said. "Whichever one is hitting the ball will be playing. They'll push each other, while fighting for the position."

The roster also includes junior second baseman Brandi Brown, senior utility player Sara Fluter, who runs the bases for Heikkinen, and junior outfielders Kim Shields and Marissa Nedlock.

The Falcons resume play Monday when they play host to North Farmington.

"I expect us to play hard and hustle game in and game out," Osborne said.

Hawks from page 1C

year varsity pitcher.

She was in the outfield last year but will either catch or play second when not pitching this year.

"She's added a lot of pitching speed, as well as a curve and a drop, and her changeup has always been good," Teachman said. "Kozzi has good speed like LaCusset, so she's going to overpower people, too."

The switch-hitting Kozziara, also scored over 30 runs and is close to setting school records for career steals, runs, hits and batting chances.

Harrison has another pitcher in freshman Ali Ault, whom Teachman has been grooming for two years in the summer fast-pitch league and plans to give equal time on the mound.

"She has a good fastball, change, curve, drop and rise and

a good stick," he said. "The only thing she has to do is throw some innings and feel comfortable about it."

All is going to be noticed before four years are up and probably before the end of this year. She's throwing as fast as Erin did as a junior."

Foster is another four-year varsity player and will play right field. As a sophomore, she threw out 12 runners at first base.

"She's a power hitter (.300) and will put up the numbers to challenge Jenny's RBI record," Teachman said. "She handles the bat well and hits to all fields."

Kelly, who will start in right field, is a good line-drive hitter and a terror on the basespaths, according to Teachman.

The leadoff batter will be Kozziara, who batted .375 and

had an on-base percentage that was near .600, followed by Kelly and Foster.

Myślinski, who holds every Harrison hitting record, seems the kind of hitter who is irreplaceable, but junior Kelly Derocher might produce in the same way at the plate. She hit .450 with five home runs, 11 doubles and six triples on the JV.

Sophomore Amy Rolfe also moves up from the JV to start at shortstop.

"She's a very talented athlete," Teachman said. "Her hand-eye

coordination is great. She's going to be a good player; she just has to learn the position."

Junior Abby Ault, was good enough to play varsity last year but had too many seniors hitting of her. She gets that opportunity this year and will be the center fielder and backup shortstop.

Sophomore Becky Vosler was an impressive in tryouts Teachman decided he needed her on the varsity as an additional outfielder.

Freshman Ari Ault will have a starting role, too, behind the plate.

"Somebody had to catch (Ari during summer workouts), so we brought Ari along and convinced her she could be a top-notch catcher," Teachman said, adding Ault has a gun for an arm.

The Hawks will play second and third base by committee, according to Teachman. Either Kozziara, Ali Ault or junior Jenny Emmett will play second. Sophomore Megan Wild and junior Errin Stegich are former JV players and prospective third basemen.

"We have a lot of girls here who have played a lot of soft-

ball," Teachman said. "Their dads know a lot about the game and taught them as they were coming up."

The Hawks, who defeated Livonia Stevenson and Redford Union, return to action Monday at Livonia Churchhill.

"I think we're going to compete with a lot of people," Teachman said. "We have to be aggressive and be willing to make a mistake to do some things."

"We might be right in the mix. Our goal is to improve as the year goes on and, if somebody fathers along the way, be ready

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