

Hawks from page D1

Not only is Ari Ault a good hitter — she batted .285 with three doubles, a home run and 15 RBI — but a fine defensive catcher, according to Teachman.

"Unfortunately, people see that as an offensive position, but pitching-catching is the key in fast pitch," he said. "If your catcher can't catch the ball in the dirt, your pitcher can't throw her drop. Ari does, so Ali has no fear throwing the drop."

The Hawks also have three other pitchers, so Ault won't have to shoulder the full load.

Junior Leslie Schrock threw 84 varsity innings last year, and sophomores Katrina Vitonis and Lindsey Emmett were the JV pitchers.

"The good thing is there's no pressure on any one of them," Teachman said. "It's not like (Livonia Franklin's Lori) Jendrusik, who knows she's going to throw every inning."

Senior Amy Robie, a four-year varsity player, has moved from shortstop to center field, and Vitonis becomes the shortstop.

"Amy is such a great athlete that she can play out there,"

Teachman said. "She reacts so well and has great hand-eye coordination."

"Katina will play shortstop next year, so why not get it started now? I asked Amy at a baseball game (if she would make the switch), and she said she'd do anything to help the team."

Schrock and Emmett will rotate at first base, and junior Brittany Maxey will play second base when Ault pitches.

Vitonis will be the leadoff batter; she's also a switch hitter, a good line-drive hitter, bunter and baserunner, according to Teachman.

Senior co-captain Megan Wild missed most of last season with a back injury but played a lot as a sophomore and will be the regular third baseman.

"She's back, fit as a fiddle, and fielding well," Teachman said, adding Wild is a good hitter, too.

Senior Becky Voeller, the other co-captain, begins her third year on the varsity and returns as the starter in right field.

"She gets the out at first," Teachman said. "She's a fearless

baserunner. We shortened her swing a bit, and the line drives are just jumping off the bat now."

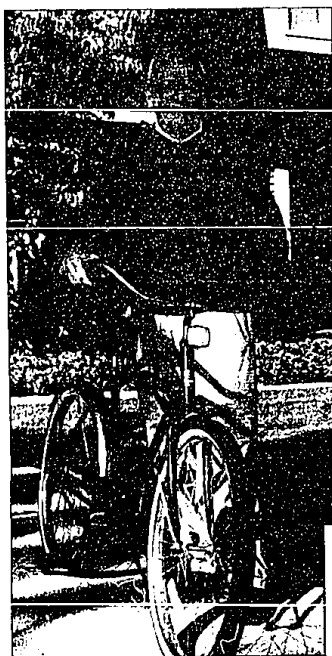
Returning senior Jon Emmett is the left fielder and a good hitter and baserunner, according to the coach.

"The 11th player may be the one who makes our team really compete," said Teachman of senior Jamie Swartz, who played a lot at third last year when Wild was hurt but also can play first, catcher and anywhere in the outfield.

"She's an extremely smart player. Having her available to play a lot of positions means everybody gets a rest and doesn't have the pressure on them of being the third baseman or the first baseman."

The Hawks started the season Friday with an 8-6 win over Walled Lake Western in nine innings.

"I want to compete for the division title, so that means the 3-2 and 2-1 games we lost we're going to have to win," Teachman said. "I think we should be in there in the thick of things."



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Falcons from page D1

two-year starter.

Tall and thin, DePotter "does a very good job of keeping the ball in front of her," Osborne said. "She shortens up the distance on a lot of throws. She's a good defensive first baseman."

Starting many of the rallies will be leadoff hitter Kristin Brown, a junior center fielder who was second on the team in stolen bases last year.

"We're looking for a lot of good things from Danielle Lewis," Osborne said. His No. 3 hitter is a freshman second baseman with some pop in her bat. Good defensively, she is also a good contact hitter.

The catcher is sophomore Meghan O'Rear, who will bat

fifth. She puts the ball in play and, so far, has done a good job defensively.

Farmington will still have a sophomore at shortstop; it just won't be Mytty. Instead, Julie Rotenheiser, a good defensive player who led the team in chances last season and was the No. 1 fielder.

A sophomore will be in right field, too. Tricia Krause, who started as a freshman, will hit second.

Yet another sophomore, Becky DePotter, starts at third base. "I'm looking for her to have a good year offensively and defensively," Osborne said.

Heather Martin will play left field when she isn't serving as

the DH and will bat sixth.

"She has a lot of pop in her bat," Osborne said, "and does a nice job of putting the ball in play."

Others on the team include juniors Nicole Davis, Katie Hickory, Sarah Leibis and Angie Luttman, the only left-handed hitter on the team.

"The one thing I've tried to push for in the first three years I've been here is to play defense," Osborne said. "We don't mind losing a game when the team we're playing is better than us, as long as we know we didn't give it away defensively."

"If we keep the errors to a minimum, we should be able to stay in games for the most part."

Baseball from page D2

Ironically, Glenn had all three of his hits off Penta. Senior Jeff Trzoza pitched the first three innings, striking out six and walking one. Senior Kirk Taylor worked the final two, posting four strikeouts and two walks.

Trzoza, Taylor and Bryan Glazer had two hits apiece. The Raiders had 11 total, including a double and an RBI from Penta. Taylor had two RBI, Glazer one. Trzoza had a double and scored two runs as did Glazer.

Josh Utley was the starter and loser for the Rockets (0-2).

"We played great defense," North coach Jim Hovitz said. "When they hit the

ball, we made some good plays, and we got the great defense from the pitchers."

Glenn committed three of his four errors in the fifth inning. North made two errors. STEVENSON 8, FARMINGTON 0: Roy Rabe pitched a one-hit, complete game Friday as the host Spartans kept the defending Lakes Division champions winless through three games.

Rabe struck out nine, walked five and hit four. Farmington's Charlie Avery pitched the first five innings and got the loss. He gave up four of Stevenson's seven hits, fanned five, walked one and hit two.

Dred Baker tied the only hit for Farming-

ton. Joe Suchare knocked in two runs with a double for Stevenson. Rabe and Dave Stando had RBI singles.

"The kid (Rabe) threw a good ballgame and beat us," Farmington coach Tim Schaffer said. "The thing we have to do is a better job on the things we can control."

"Defensively, we have to make a few more plays. Offensively, we have to put the ball in play better, especially with men in scoring position."

On Wednesday, the Falcons lost to Northville in five innings, 14-4. Avery had two of Farmington's three hits and two RBI. Breten Conley was the losing pitcher.

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