

# Marlins hope veteran team has big year



**Veteran infielder:** Junior Krystal Shina fields a ground ball last season and returns to play first base for the Marlins, who had no seniors on their team last year.

BY DAN O'KEARA  
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Before an inning was played a year ago, the Farmington Hills Mercy softball coaches and players couldn't help thinking ahead to the year 2000.

It's not that last season didn't matter. The Marlins actually did very well, finishing with a 23-16 record, winning a district title and taking runner-up honors in the Catholic League.

With no seniors on that team, there was always next season for Mercy to have that really big year.

"We're looking forward to the upcoming season," Mercy coach Jack Falvo said. "We have an all-returning team and we have experience."

"However, the girls still have to play, and they have to get their game together. Hopefully, they can do that, and they can do what they're capable of doing."

The Marlins are led by senior co-captains and All-Observer players Erin Carson and Dana Falvo, who committed last fall to play for Hillsdale College.

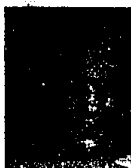
Carson batted .462 with seven extra-base hits and 11 RBI, and she scored 30 runs. The veteran catcher also threw out 27 of 33 runners attempting to steal and had 28 assists.

"Erin has looked fantastic in workouts," coach Falvo said. "She has a quick release and her throws to the base are strong and accurate."

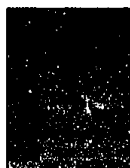
"Where we've always called pitches from the bench, we may let Erin do that, too. We have that much confidence in her."

Falvo returns to center field where she had 17 assists, throwing out 11 runners at the plate as well as three each at second and third bases. As the leadoff batter, she hit .407 and scored 20 runs.

"She brings good speed to the outfield and a strong, live arm," said her dad and coach. "She has worked on her left-handed slap hitting and bunting, and we're eager to see if her off-season work pays off."



Catcher Erin Carson



Outfielder Dana Falvo

Around the infield, the Marlins have junior Krystal Shina at first base, senior Nuverre Naami at second, junior Lauren Monterey at short and senior Carrie Brankiewicz at third.

Shina hit .283 with nine RBI after moving up to the varsity and learning the position. Naami is a quality hitter who had a .371 average and nine extra-base hits. Her 18 RBI tied her with Monterey and Brankiewicz for the team lead.

"Nuverre came into her own last season," Falvo said. "Nuverre is probably the best bad-ball hitter we have. She's a gamer; she just comes to play."

"Krystal flourished into a great defensive first baseman and, offensively, started to hit the ball. I can't wait to see what she does this year."

Falvo puts Monterey, who batted .374 with five triples, in a class with some of the best shortstops in the area — Waterford Kettering's Andrea Hillsey and North Farmington's Samantha McComb.

"Laurel's arm is as strong as any of them," he said, adding Monterey is a good baserunner with good speed. "I expect her to really take over the position and have a breakout season."

Brankiewicz, an all-area player in basketball and volleyball, might be the best athlete on the team. She hit .385 with two home runs and nine doubles.

## SOFTBALL

"Carrie is a leader; she's my player-coach," Falvo said. "She knows what she has to do and will pay the price to be a winner."

The most important position is probably pitcher, and Mercy has two experienced hurlers in senior Erin Howard and sophomore Megan Feduk.

"Erin worked very hard over the winter and has added a drop and a changeup pitch, and she has added a couple miles an hour on her fastball," Falvo said.

"Megan is coming along great, and I expect big things from her. She had a fastball and a change; now she has a natural drop and a little bit of a rise pitch."

Senior Marisa Lawrence, who hit .277 with 10 RBI, moves from left to right field. Sophomores Theresa Lawrence, who had some varsity experience as a post-season DH, and Lindsey Feduk will share time in left field.

"I look for (Marisa Lawrence) to be a steady player in right field, make good contact and put the ball in play," Falvo said.

"I think (Theresa Lawrence) can play defensively but needs some innings in the outfield. (Feduk) is a little green right now. We expect her, by the end of the season, to be pretty comfortable at that position."

Senior Alex Duda completes the varsity roster. Her claim to fame is she's the only player to hit a ball over the fence at Mercy.

The Marlins, who lost to state semifinalist Troy in a regional game last year and are ranked No. 9 in the preseason Division I poll, start the season April 4 at home against Bishop Foley.

Falvo expects Mercy to contend for the league title since defending champ Regina lost a lot of players, but he added Marian has its best team in a long time and Ladywood is always a tough opponent.

"I think we can compete with anybody in the league," he said. "If we play the way we're capable, I think we'll be successful."

## Falcons from page C1

Sophomore Meghan Young, a starting varsity player, replaces three-year starter Kristin Brown (all-area second team) in center field and has big shoes to fill, according to Osborne.

"I don't want her to be Kristin Brown," he said. "I just want her to play solid defense out there. She had a good summer, and I'm hoping that carries over to this year."

The left fielder will be one of two sophomores, both of whom were on the JV. Randin Brown

and Julie Kimmel are speed-and-accuracy athletes. "(Brown) has good speed and can run down a fly ball," Osborne said. "She'll be a tough out, because she gets the ball on the ground and can really run."

"(Kimmel) is one of the hardest practice players I've seen; she always wants to learn. She can run down a ball pretty well herself."

The roster also includes senior Kim Livingston, who was the backup catcher and designated hitter last year, and sophomore

utility player Kelsey Guisberg.

The Falcons, who finished 12-19 last season, start the new campaign Tuesday, April 4, at Southfield Christian.

The important factors for Farmington are the play of its seven seniors and good defense, according to Osborne.

"I have all the confidence in the world that Melissa, Meghan and the rest of the seniors are going to play well," he said.

"I've always been one to talk about defense. We've never been a powerhouse offensive squad. This year we could have a pretty good offensive team, but we'll

**'This year we could have a pretty good offensive team, but we'll win more games playing solid defense than we will by outscoring opponents in double-digit figures.'**

**Jerry Osborne**  
—Farmington softball coach

win more games playing solid defense than we will by outscoring opponents in double-digit figures."



**Good glove:** The Falcons have a veteran catcher and quality defender in senior Meghan O'Rear.

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**CITY OF FARMINGTON**  
**2000 DOG & CAT LICENSES**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Friday, March 31, 2000, is the **Last Day** to obtain City of Farmington 2000 Dog & Cat Licenses without penalty. Beginning Saturday, April 1, 2000, License Fee will increase from \$7.00 to \$10.00.

Pet owners must present a **Certificate of Rabies Vaccinations** bearing a current effective date at the time of application which must be signed by a certified veterinarian.

Please apply during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Farmington City Hall, 23500 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan.

**PATSY K. CANTRELL**  
City Clerk/Treasurer

Published: March 28 and 30, 2000

**CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS**  
**NOTICE OF HEARING OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DUST CONTROL IMPROVEMENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

1. That the Council of the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, has tentatively declared its intention to make the following improvement:  
**Application of liquid dust control to be located in the City on all public unimproved roads.**
2. That plans and specifications showing the aforesaid improvement and the location thereof and an estimate of \$40,085 as the cost thereof are on file with the City Clerk for public examination.
3. That the City Council has tentatively designated the following special assessment district against which the cost of said improvement is to be assessed, to wit:  
**All properties in the City of Farmington Hills which abut public unimproved roads.**
4. That the City Council will meet in the City Hall, 51555 Elevation Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan on the 10th day of April, 2000, at 7:30 o'clock p.m., Eastern Standard Time, to hear and consider any objections to the said improvement.

**THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.**  
**KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk**

**NOTICE OF HEARING OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DUST CONTROL IMPROVEMENT**  
**CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS**  
**OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT DUST CONTROL Special Assessment Roll No. 0990-00 for the application of dust control on all public unimproved roads, in the amount of \$40,085 has been filed in the office of the City Clerk for public examination. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the City Council will meet in the City Hall, 51555 Elevation Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan, on the 10th day of April, 2000, at 7:45 o'clock p.m., Eastern Standard Time, to review said Special Assessment Roll and to hear any objections thereto.

**THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.**  
**KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk**

Filed: March 29, 2000  
Published: March 28 and April 4, 2000

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The City of Farmington Hills Purchasing Division will solicit sealed bids during the next thirty (30) days for the following products and/or services:

- Snow Plows
- Tree Service

Specifications may be obtained by contacting the Central Services Department. All bids must be submitted in accordance with the bid specifications.

The City of Farmington Hills reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in part or in whole, to waive any formalities and to accept the bid which it believes to be in the best interest of the City.

**KATHRYN A. DORNAN**  
City Clerk

Published: March 28, 2000

**FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**INVITATION TO BID**

Farmington Public Schools will accept sealed bids for:

**OFFICE FURNITURE AT EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL**

at the Lewis Schulman Administration Center, 32500 Shawwassee Farmington, MI 48336 on Tuesday, April 4, 2000 at which time they will be publicly opened and read for presentation to the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting. No oral, telephonic, telegraphic or facsimile proposals will be considered. No proposals will be considered after the time of closing of bids.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept any item in the bid, to accept or reject any or all bids; to waive any formalities therein; or for reasons of establishing uniformity, to award the contract to other than the low bidder.

Any questions should be referred to Mr. Paul Hain at (248) 489-3346 or Mr. Eugene Seaborn (248) 489-3601.

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