Lady Crusaders look for more from less the team's MVP. Madonna played 12 games in its week in Florida, beating Northwood (Fia.) 5-3 and 12-1; LeMoyne College (N. V.) 2-1; Lemorson College (N. V.) 2-1; Jamestown College (N. D.) 3-1; and St. Anselm (N.H.) 4-3. The Crusaders lost to St. Thomas (Fia.) twice, 4-3 and 7-1; to St. Francis 4-3; to Jamestown College (N.D.) 1-0; and to Northwestern College (Gwal) 3-0. Six of the Crusaders 13 players played in every game. Those figures won't change much during the season.

One thing Al White has done is eliminate decisions that could intrude on his coaching Madon-na University's softball team.

na University's softball team.
He didn't necessarily want to
dispose of them. Some players,
it's true, weren't asked to return
from last season's team, Others,
like Vicki Malkowski, the Lady
Crusaders top hitter the past few
years, have graduated.

Crusaders top hitter the past few years, have graduated.
And still others, who said they would join the Crusaders this senson, didn't.
What that adds up to is a list of subtraction. Madonna has just

of subtraction. Madenna has just 13 players on its roster.

"You play with the hand you're dealt," said White, in his third season as Madenna's head coach. But I love my team. I've got a girls who want to play hall. They played well in Florida—I couldn't have asked for more."

The Crusaders were 7-5 on their trip south, with 10 of the games played at Fort Myers. The

SOFTBALL

competition was tougher than in the past, White said, which means it may be difficult for Madonna to match last season's 31-24 record (15-13 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Con-

ference).

Still, he's confident this is a better team, if it can stay healthy.

Pitching is one area that is not just better, it's desper. I this this is the best pitching we've ever had at Madonna, said White.

Returning from last year is Returning from last year is Jenny Tenyer, a sophomore from Marine City. She'll be joined on the mound by Missy VanDoorn, a junior who played one year at North Dakota State and one at Oakland Cc; she's a Royal Oak Dondero graduate. Tenyer was 2-2 in Florida with a 2.03 earned run average, allowing 31 hits and five walks (etriking out 18) in 31 innings.



FILE PROTO BY PAUL HURSCHIAN

Softie: Shortstop Kristy McDonald keys Madon na's returneed

VanDoorn was 5-1 with a 1.30 ERA, giving up 20 hits and three walks in 27 innings (24 strike-

Others who will get some mound time are Kristie Givens (0-2, 2.33 ERA thus far), a sophomore with freshman elgi-

bility from South Lyon, and Jamie Bobrowski, a freshman from Wyandotte Mt. Carmel who will also play right field. "It makes it easier on the pitchers, I know that," White said of his multiple mound choic-

pitchers, I know that, "write said of his multiple mound choices.

He hasn't the same luxury anywhere else. Anchoring the infield are a pair of sonior returness: Angela Litwin, a first baseman from Plymouth Canton, and Kristy McDonald, a short-stop from Redford Thurston. Through the spring trip, McDonald was hitting. 353 with a teambest seven runs scored and three runs batted in; Litwin was batted in; Litwin was batted in; Litwin was batted in; Litwin was batted in; Litwin and three runs batted in; Litwin was batted in; Litwin and three runs batted in; Litwin was batted in; Litwin and Angela is a Scholar-Athlete (3.9 grade-point average).

Freshmen are expected to fill some key spots on a regular basis. Replacing Malkowski behind the plate won't be easy, but White is impressed with freshman Aris Fowler (2.22, four RBI in 10 games thus far! "She's and heaved a heaved."

RBI in 10 games thus far). "She's a hard-nosed player," said White, "and she's an excellent receiver." Indeed, Fowler did not make an error in the first 10

At second base, White is counting on Candace Morgan, a Clarkston graduate who can also pitch. 'She his the (blank) out of the ball,' the Madonna coach said. Her trip south backed that claim: Morgan was hitting a team-high Aloft, with three RBI. At third, sophomore Moghan Quinn, from Hartland, takes over. Quinn hit. 171 on the Floridating, but she totaled five RBI. "We're pretty young," said White. 'Other than 'Mac' and Angela, were all freshmen and sophomores." The outfield features Stack Wilson in left, a sophomore

Wilson in left, a sophomore returnee from Waterford Ketter-ing who is batting .355 with a team-best six RBI; Devon Fletcher, another sophomore (from New Boston Huron), in center New Boston Huron), in center (batting .344, six runs scored); and soveral players in right, starting with Bobrowski. Col-lette King, a freshman from Allen Park Cabrini, will see time in the outfield as well.

in the outfield as well.
At first and at catcher, Pam
Konwinski, a sophomore from
poly of playing time.
But then again, who won't?
Which is why Madonna trainer
Karen Sadowski may prove to be

figures won't change much during the season.

"Pitching is the key," White said, labeling Cornerstone University and Aquinas College as WHAC favorites. "We've definitely improved ourselves in that department. Now our freshmen and sephomores have to take the next step and hit the ball.

"You've got to score some runs, no matter how good your pitching is."

Time will tel whether Madona has enough talent in cartain

ing is."
Tyme will tell whether Madenna has enough talent in certain areas to compensate for places where it is lacking — enough to translate into wins for the Cruanders.

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