



Senior Beth Danilewicz has been North's starting pitcher for three years and owns every school pitching record.

SOFTBALL

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Kettering and West Bloomfield. "I don't think another league can boast of so many talented players," Brubaker said. "Going into the OAA, I know every game is going to be a real contest."

The backup pitchers will be sophomore Rachel Abruzzo and freshman Monica Hayworth, who pitched St. Fabian to the CYO city championship last year.

North has a veteran catcher in senior Amy Berke, who has a good arm and knows how to

handle pitching. Brubaker said. Berke had 31 hits, 15 RBI and a fielding percentage of .859.

"She threw out 48 percent of runners," Brubaker said. "That's almost half, which is pretty good in girls softball. If you get every other one, that's not a bad deal."

The Raiders are solid at second base and shortstop with senior Jehan Hindo and junior Emily Jaffe as returning starters, respectively.

Hindo has recovered from a knee injury that caused her to miss most of the basketball season. She and Jaffe, an all-state tennis player who hit .377 in the WLAA, are two-year starters.

"She's not a hundred percent but good enough to go," Brubaker said of Hindo. "Even losing a half step, she's still pretty quick."

"Last year (Jaffe) was improved and this year she's in the best shape of her career. I think she's ready to go, hitting and fielding wise."

Sophomore Katie Boland, a JV player last year, was impressive in practice and won the starting job at third base.

The first baseman will be either one of two juniors, Kristen McElean and Suzanne Johns, or Hayworth. Senior Katie Harris is a backup at second base.

Senior Brynn Allen will play in center field, senior Lori Tapper in right and sophomore

players I think can do the job. "I think we'll have an outstanding defensive team, and I think we'll surprise some people with the kind of sticks we have."

Brubaker thinks the division winner might have six losses. Lake Orion had five last year. The Raiders will play each team three times.

"When Beth is on, there aren't too many people who are going to beat her," Brubaker said.

"Now it's another matter if Beth is on and we beat ourselves. The girls have to perform to the ability expected."

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SOCCER

FROM PAGE D1

when we had our passing game going we looked very good."

The Falcons had some minor breakdowns but recovered well, he added. As they got into the second half, they didn't have those mistakes.

"Both teams played very well, but we thought we were definitely the better team," Montgomery said. "All around we had good play from all our girls."

Kate Kelly was in goal for the Falcons and made three saves. It was the first loss in three games for Avondale.

Freshmen forwards Lindsay Evans and Mary Peszek played very well, as did Eric and Joyce Rose in the midfield, according to Montgomery.

"The defense was very solid," he said. "We had exceptional play from Maggie Vallancourt and Mallory McGee. They were playing outside defender and did a really good job."

"Kelly Hay and Erin Deroo did a fine job at center defense. Outside midfielders Kristen Pietila and Katy Johnson made some nice crosses and helped set up scoring opportunities."

Captains rally to tie Hawks
Farmington Harrison led a 2-0 lead in the first half only to see Tuesday as host Waterford Kettering rallied in the second half for a 2-2 tie.

"We outplayed them in the first half," Harrison coach Stacy Punzal said. "We were passing and communicating well. In the second half, maybe it was inexperience and not being accustomed to playing with a lead."

"Kettering was a different team. They had two players they held back in the first half for some reason."

"They picked up the play and were very aggressive. They were passing well and moving to the ball. We weren't doing any of those things. I think we had a little fatigue there, too."

Leanne Burns scored the first Harrison goal with assists by Alex Cicci and Stacey Potrykus on 25:29 in the first half.

"We had great passing work," Punzal said. "It went one, two, three. We had the free kick by Alex. It was crossed by Stacey and finished by Leanne."

Jessi Waldecker accounted for the second goal with 15:32 remaining in the half. The assist was by Cicci again.

Christy Miller scored both Kettering goals - the first at 19:21 of the second half and the second with just 1:30 left to play.

"We won the first half and Kettering won the second, so it was a true tie game," Punzal said. "The girls learned they have to play a full 80-minute game."

"We're not used to playing under pressure, and Kettering really took the play to our defense."

"It was a very physical game. It changed the tone of the game in the second half. It surprised our girls; they weren't ready for it."

Punzal cited the exceptional play of Cicci, the team's all-purpose player who starts at stopper and takes all the free kicks and corners, and outside defender Sarah Abou-el-Scoud. The Hawks are 2-0-1 overall.

MARIAN 3, MERRY 0: The Marlins slipped to 0-2 in the Catholic League Central Division and 0-3 overall Tuesday after losing to the visiting Mustangs.

Merry goalie Monisha Berkowski made 18 saves, while the Marlins fired a half dozen shots at the Marian goal.

"Actually, it wasn't a bad game for us," Merry coach Tania MacIose said. "The girls played tough and worked really hard. We fought a pretty good fight."

Marian has some really fast players, and their speed is what caught us a little bit on two goals. There was still a penalty kick."

"I think the second goal in the first half look a little wind out of our sails. We fought hard in the second half, but it was already 2-0 at that point. We never did give up."

Merry had its first game to Woodhaven 3-0 and its second to Pontiac Notre Dame Prep 3-0.

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