

Franklin '73 Baseball Has A Batgirl Swing

By TOM DONOGHUE
Sports Editor

The better idea -- nine Franklin batgirls. "I got the idea of installing batgirls in our baseball program last January at the American Baseball Coaches Association meeting in Chicago," said Heltier. "A lot of the colleges, junior colleges and high schools down south are doing it."

Heltier got the "no sign" from the administration, announced the tryouts for the batgirl squad, gave baseball knowledge tests and Franklin High now has a team of nine batgirls.

The lone senior batgirl is Nancy Wallens who just happens to be dating one of the star Patriot players in Naauyokas, Kit Zupun, Liz Toth and Vicki Urban.

And just what will be the duties of these nine Franklin lassies? Heltier explained that they are not taking on the role of cheerleaders but more of a statistics crew.

The nine assignments for the batgirls are: scorekeeper; batgirl; base sweeper between innings; offensive and defensive statistician; program distributor; two girls for running statistics; and two for chasing foul balls.

"A lot of the schools down south and out west utilize girls in the baseball programs," added Heltier. "I think you'll see it catching on more up here. Eastern Michigan University is also going to use the girls this year."

"Everyone around Franklin thought I was joking at first," stated Heltier. "Things are more serious now and as far as I am concerned, the batgirls are a real part of the team."

What does the boys' team think of it?

"The team is excited about the idea," said Heltier. "Especially Waterstone since his girl friend is one of the nine batgirls. The guys didn't take me seriously at first, but they have now and they are more relaxed with the idea."

"If nothing else, the girls should draw bigger crowds for the games."

Batgirls' uniforms will consist of a Franklin baseball jersey, blue shorts, baseball socks, blue turtle neck sweater and a Franklin baseball cap.

Having the girls around should create more of a relaxed atmosphere," added the Franklin coach.

"For the away games, the girls will be sitting in the front of the bus traveling to the game," said Heltier. "We almost always travel with the tennis team, so it will be an awkward situation returning home."

"If we win but the tennis squad loses, things just can't be all cheery, cheery, or vice versa. The girls will know what's going on."

"I guess another big thing about the idea is getting the girls involved, since it seems that's what they all want these days," added Heltier.

The nine girls see their actions as another way in showing school spirit and all agreed that they "just love baseball."

"I love baseball, like guys and this just seemed to fit right in," said sophomore Nancy Nauyokas.

Kim Scarpace is hoping to get the assignment of sweeping off the bases in between innings which might even include dusting off the umpire's shoes.

The girls all agreed that their presence should add a glamorous touch to the Franklin baseball scene and batgirl Debbie Kline admitted that her father wishes he was still playing baseball with batgirls all around the diamond.

Franklin, which opens at Bentley on April 9, will be bouncing back from a 12-10 '72 campaign and Heltier is hoping the team addition will provide the winning spark.

Just think, this season we'll be able to pick an All-Area batgirl.



FRANKLIN BATGIRLS READY FOR BOYS' SEASON! Franklin baseball Coach Ron Heltier has struck the '73 varsity season with a new idea, nine batgirls for his Patriot baseballers. The batgirls (left to right) are Nancy

Wallens, Vicki Urban, Nancy Nauyokas, Karen Lehman, Kit Zupun, Liz Toth, Claudia Carney, Kim Scarpace and Debbie Kline. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

Spartan's Gerry Goode Tops Hockey Coaches

Hockey pucks bounce in many funny directions. For Stevenson High, the puck has been bouncing in one determined direction and the man doing the shooting has been selected as Observers' hockey coach of the year.

A tip of the hat to Stevenson Coach Gerry Goode. Prep hockey in Observersland has just completed its third season and it hasn't been an easy road for the area coaches to convince all that hockey is here to stay.

The road to conviction has been conquered and the prep hockey program can do nothing but continue the upward swing it has already kicked into high gear.

"Stevenson Hockey Power" buttons are aplenty in Observersland and Goode is the man behind the Spartan machine.

The Spartans placed second behind Bentley in the "rookie year" but upended the Bulldogs crew, 4-1, for the city championship.

Last year saw Stevenson remain undefeated up to the final game with Churchill, when Adam Mitchell's Charger squad toppled the Spartans 3-2 to tie for the Livonia championship.

This year, the four - team

batting with Stevenson in '69 and this spring has taken over the Spartan varsity squad which opens play next week.

"Joanne has to sit on a real thin line when it comes to hockey competition between Churchill and Stevenson," added Goode.

Goode also coached junior varsity baseball at Stevenson

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