

SPORTS

C

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1993

Future looks promising for Hawks



Farmington Hills Harrison might have a lot of young players on its softball team, but that doesn't mean the Hawks don't have the talent needed to be competitive, according to coach Mike Teachman.

BY DAN O'MEARA STAFF WRITER

Opponents should not be fooled by the youthfulness of the Farmington Hills Harrison softball team.

The Hawks have six sophomores and two freshmen among 12 varsity players; however, coach Mike Teachman believes his team has success in its future.

Harrison was 5-16 last year, but Teachman hopes the Hawks do like the girls basketball team did last fall and turn the program around.

"We have a young team but we're going to be good some day," Teachman said, adding the Harrison girls were 12-4 in the summer league.

The sophomore class is one of the best athletic classes for girls that we've had around here in a long time.

All but one of the softball players were on the basketball team that finished 12-9 and fifth in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

A key contributor to both programs is Heather Hopkins, the only softball senior who hit .363. She will play first base, pitch occasionally and serve as a co-captain.

Teachman expects the 6-foot-1 Hopkins, an all-area basketball player who is going to Lake Superior State University on scholarship, to be a leader in softball too.

Her experience in basketball last fall helped, "because she had a lot of pressure to do well," Teachman said.

"She had to change her game from being just a scorer to being a leader and doing a little of everything. If she leads as well as she did in basketball, I'll be satisfied."

"She went from scoring 25 points a game to 12 and they still won. I think she learned a valuable lesson there."

Another of four returning players is junior shortstop and co-captain Amanda Ault, who hit .320 and had a school-record four triples. She had a hot bat at the end of the season, hitting .450 the last three weeks.

"She's played shortstop for me since the day she walked on the field as a freshman," Teachman said. "She's an excellent baserunner, hits the ball with power and hits well to all fields."

The Hawks also have sophomore Amy Geary, who was the No. 1 pitcher at the end of last season. She was on the varsity for the last seven games and had a 2-4 record.

"She's a control pitcher and has really dedicated herself to learning how to pitch," Teachman said. "She has a good drop and changeup, and she's already twice as fast as she was last year."

The fourth veteran player is sophomore third baseman Jenny Myslinski, who played the last half of 1992 on the varsity and batted .210. She will be in the cleanup spot in place of injured senior Kelley West.

"(Myslinski) has been hitting the tar out of the ball in the batting cage, and she's hitting ropes all over outside," Teachman said. "Some day she's going to be all-league. She runs, throws and fields."

Harrison will miss West, who injured a knee in volleyball and had surgery. She would have been the center fielder, but it will be two months before she can resume athletic activity.

The catcher is sophomore Kathy Schneider, who has worked with Geary since last fall but must make the adjustment to the varsity game, Teachman said.

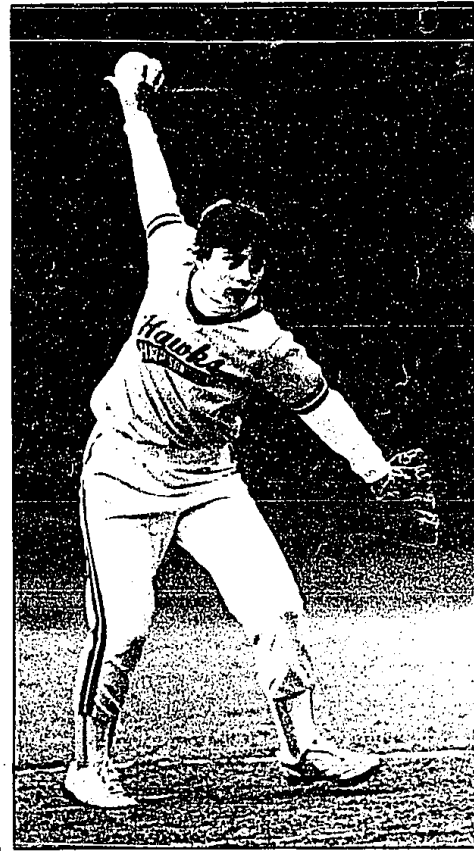
The second baseman will be either junior Becky Mackel, who is playing softball for the first time but is catching on quick, or sophomore Jodie Barringer, who played on the JV last year.

Sophomore Kelly Lacosse was the only definite starter in the outfield as of last week and will play in center.

"She's all over the place and plays hard," Teachman said. "She understands an outfielder must become part of the game in terms of backing up and covering bases. Some only think an outfielder's job is to catch fly balls and return home runs after they're hit."

Sophomore Erin Lacosse is another outfielder and the backup pitcher. The left-hander also plays first base and is a good line-drive hitter.

See HAWKS, 2C



JIM JACKFIELD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Harrison hurler: Amy Geary enters her sophomore season as the No. 1 softball pitcher for the Hawks.

Stars Improved team

The Farmington Stars under-12 girls soccer team won its final two games and finished third in its indoor division (4-4).

"We're a much better team today than we were last season (0-7-1)," coach Tom Faro said. "It will be exciting to watch the girls play this spring because they've improved in a number of areas."

The roster consists of Regina Bander, Annie Curran, Megan Donahue, Christin Drayduck, Allison Edwards, Kristy Figel, Jamie Jakacki, Beth Koscicki, Brynn Mackel, Moira Morel, Melissa Myster, Julie Nieman, Marya Link, Dana Wantlin and Shayna Welch. Joe Bander and Linda Wantlin are assistant coaches.

Madonna women split

A doubleheader split was reason for the Madonna University women's softball team to be pleased Wednesday.

The Crusaders (6-18) managed to win a game from Wayne State (20-7), which is ranked ninth nationally in NCAA Division II. Carolyn Nagel's RBI triple in the eighth inning allowed Madonna to edge the Tartars 4-3 in the nightcap.

Kristen Wasil was the winning pitcher. Tracy Parenti's RBI triple in the sixth tied the score. The Crusaders outbit Wayne State 12-11.

The Tartars won the first game 3-2. Madonna had a chance to break open the game in the third inning, according to coach Dave Racer. The first three batters reached base with the Nos. 4 and 5 hitters coming up, but the Crusaders got only one run out of it. Dawn Terral was the losing pitcher.

College baseball

Overland has several former prep baseball players enjoying fine collegiate seasons in 1993.

Westland John Glenn graduate Clint Straub, a senior at the University of Detroit-Mercy, leads Midwestern Collegiate Conference pitchers in earned run average through games of April 12. Straub, 2-0 as a pitcher, has allowed 10 earned runs in 18 innings for a 1.00 ERA. UD-Mercy, which leads the MCC in team pitching with a 3.24 ERA, is in second place behind Notre Dame in the MCC at 7-1, 9-7 overall.

The University of Michigan has struggled to a 3-9 Big Ten start and a 9-24 overall record but not because of Plymouth Salem graduate Tom Marion. The right-handed senior reliever, who is the all-time saves leader at U-M, owns a 0.47 ERA in 19.1 innings pitched. Marion, who is 0-1, has allowed 15 hits and struck out 21.

Brett Welling, who graduated from Redford Catholic Central, is on a hitting tear as a junior at Adrian College. Welling is second in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association with a .722 batting average and first in RBIs with six. Welling, a Westland native, is second in total bases in the MIAA with 14 and has 13 hits in 18 at-bats. Adrian is in second place behind first-place Alma in the MIAA with a 3-3 record.

Hoop officials camp

St. Cecilia's Second Annual Basketball Officiating Camp for men and women 18 and over will be July 9, 10 and 11. The camp is for those interested in becoming high school officials and will be 6-9 p.m. Friday, July 9, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The six-person staff will lecture, critique, evaluate, provide on-court instruction and show videotape. The staff includes high school and college referee Mike Smith, Catholic League Director Tom Rashid and Detroit Public School League supervisor of officials Charles Nichola.

St. Cecilia's is in Detroit at 10400 Stoepele near the intersection of Livonia and Grand Rivers. Cost is \$70. For more information, call Smith at 272-4608.

Bunny Hop race results

Dave Chomet of Royal Oak nudged out Chuck Block of Livonia at the tape to win the annual Metro-Macomb Runners Four-Mile Easter Bunny Hop on April 10 at Metropolitan Beach.

Both runners were clocked at 21:39. Chomet placed first in the 18-24 age bracket and Block was first in the 35-39 bracket.

Maggie Zidar, 42, from Pontiac, won the women's race in 29:53.

Several area runners finished in the top three of their age groups.

Livonia's Rob Block was first in the 13-Under boys (25:58). Farmington Hills' Dave Peterson was the 25-29 men (22:10). (Westland's) Brett Millery was first in the 30-34 men's (22:45); Larry Wibright, Plymouth, won the 45-49 men's (25:55); Plymouth's Herb Seeger was first in the 55-59 men's (28:29) and Del Slater of Livonia was second (31:39); Fred Guroi, Farmington Hills, was first in the 70-74 men's (33:00).

Basketball team MVP

Sawn Raspert, a Redford Bishop Borgees graduate, was presented the Charles A. Phillips Award as the Michigan State basketball team's most valuable player, as selected by the media.

Madonna stays close to district leader

The Madonna baseball team was about as stable as the Michigan weather in a pair of double-headers Wednesday and Thursday. It blew both hot and cold.

Yet, after splitting a pair with Spring Arbor (down 6-3 in the first, up 19-7 in the second) and Concordia (down 2-1, up 4-0), the Crusaders were still just percentage points behind first-place Spring Arbor in NIAA District 23 play.

"The last three years we've gone to Spring Arbor either in first place or tied for first and came out in second place or worse," said coach Mike Geoga. "At least this year we came out still in first."

More or less. Spring Arbor is 9-3 (.750 winning percentage) in the District, 15-8 overall. Madonna is 7-3

BASEBALL

(700), 19-10 overall. Technically, Spring Arbor is first by 50.

"Still, to come back and win that second game kind of got the monkey off our backs," Geoga said.

The Crusader bats, which have been hitting at a healthy .295 clip, were subdued in game one by Spring Arbor right-hander Jim Knight. He allowed six hits, two of which were solo homers by Joe Brusseau and Shaun Hayward, in a 6-3 win.

Tracy Lacky's two-run homer and Tim Symington's solo shot were the big blows for Spring Arbor. It was the first loss of the season for Madonna right-hander Louis McKalg (3-1).

"We had some opportunities,"

George said. "We hit a couple of balls that they chased down right at the fence (Concordia) have turned the game around."

The Crusaders may not have cleared the fences in game one, but they tore them down in a 19-7 romp in game two. The Crusaders smacked the Cougars with a school-record 15-run fifth inning that featured grand slam home runs by Jim Solak and Rich Roy.

"How often do you see two grand slams in one inning?" George said.

Jeff Miller and George Leung also homered for Madonna. It was the first homer of Leung's career.

Ryan Grabetz, 3-0, was the beneficiary of the hit and homer parade. "But as high as we were after that

game, we were laid low again the next day," George said.

Concordia broke an 18-game losing streak at the expense of Madonna in the first game Thursday, scoring a 2-1 victory. Mike Cooper shut the Crusaders down on three hits.

"He pitched a great game, and so did our guy," George said, referring to Mike Coleman, who allowed just one hit and one earned run while striking out eight. Concordia scored a run in the fourth on a wild pitch and another in the fifth on an error.

"Mike is 1-3 this year and he ought to be 4-0," George said. "He lost a 3-2 game to Northwood, 2-1 to Concordia and 6-1 to Grand Valley. He pitched well enough to win all those games."

See MADONNA, 2C

Mercy hopes for return trip to state meet

BY DAN O'MEARA STAFF WRITER

Coach Vicky Kowalski is confident her Farmington Hills Mercy golf team can do just as well this year as it did last season.

The Marlins were 16-0 in duals, won the first Catholic League meet and qualified for the state tournament.

Mercy did all of that with a young team, which means the Marlins have most of their five-person tournament lineup returning.

The top player was Kristyn Schulkins, who plays for Michigan State University and will be missed, but the other four are back.

The leading returnee is senior Dana Deshaw, who was an all-area player last year and shot an average score of 50 for nine holes.

"This is her year to shine," Kowalski said. "She's been in Kristyn's shadow for three years, and this is her turn to be No. 1. "She worked more on her game in

the summer than she has in the past. Every year she's become more serious about golf and is thinking about doing something in the future as far as golf."

Sophomores Amy Schulkins and Somers Woods were regular players as freshmen, earning second-team and honorable mention All-Observer honors. Both average 52.

"The two of them really pulled it out for us in the regional," Kowalski said, adding Woods shot 105 and Schulkins 106. "That was what put us over the top to go to state, because we had Livonia Franklin breathing down our necks."

Schulkins also plays basketball and volleyball but began to realize her potential in golf last year, according to Kowalski.

Amy is a three-sport athlete, so there's not as much time to work on her golf game in the summer," she said. "She wasn't into the game as much as Kristyn was, but when she had some success last year her interest peaked in golf. She realized 'Wow,

I can do well at this."

"Summer is just a natural-born golfer. Her swing is unorthodox but she gets the job done. She really loves the game. It's her only sport so she puts a lot of time into it."

Senior Kyle Wisno was the fifth tournament player and helped the Marlins win the Monroe Jefferson event. Play was stopped after nine holes and her 48 was a key score.

"I think we'll see a more serious attitude from her too," Kowalski said. "The taste of success last year helped a lot of them."

"They got a taste of being at the state finals and they want to go back. We lost only one of our top players and most schools lost three."

Mercy also returns junior Fatty Cahill, who medaled in league tournament, and sophomore Lindsey Balers and freshman Hope Harrison could contribute during the season.

The Marlins compete in the Oakland County tournament Tuesday and will try to defend their title at Monroe Jefferson Friday.



Dana Deshaw leading returnee