## Softball from page C1

Sanior Alissa Melvin, who had a .967 fielding percentage, returns at first base and will be the backup pitcher. North returns sophomore shortaop Emily Jaffe, who got the starting call when All-Observer player Samantha McComb injured a knee. Jaffe had a full season of exprisence as a result, having hit .255 with 10 RBI. as a res 10 RBI.

ar creatly, having hit 256 with 10 RBL.
"She got to play with some duality players last year," said Brubaker, who storits his 15th year at North with a 201-167 career record.
Junior Jehan Hindo will move from right field to second base. She's a good defensive player at a crucial position, Brubaker naid. The starting nod at third base was to bo determined as senior Stephanie Karros, a returning varsity player, competed with juniors Oyinda Obayan, Lori Tapper and Samantha Guwin. All-Lakes Division senior Lindsey Taub goes from left field to right as the replacement for Hindo. "We need somebody who can chargo the ball, pick up a ground has those qualities." Bubaker aid. The center fielder will be

The center fielder will be

"The center fielder will be cither senior Moira Kessler or Obnyan, and either senior Ali Goldberg or junior Brynn Allen will start in left field. "I think we have speed in the outfield," Brubaker said, adding Taub might be the leadoff batter. "Kessler might bat second, because she's left-handed and Alien run pretty well, too."

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APARTMENT  The Hawks also have their top pitcher back, as well as a number of other key players, as they attempt to improve on a 13-18 record. Senior Kristin Schrock was 9-11 last season with 166 strikeouts in 125 innings and an ERA of 1.74.

The other varsity players are senior Sarah Reading and junior Katie Harris, both of whom will have backup roles at first and second base, respectively. The Raiders, who have won 85 games in the last four years, start the new season Monday at home against Walled Lake West-ern.

home against Walley Lake tro-ern. "I always expect us to do well; I'm always the optimist." Brubaker said. "I see pretty good up pretty well with Kettering. "What might be our downfall early is the inexperience of some of the girls. Jayvee ball is a totally different ballgame than he varsity. That's one thing the JV girls have to realize when

they come up. "It isn't like the JV where the "It isn't ince the over which and ball will be thrown around and girls will drop it. Girls are going to catch the ball and make plays. That's what they have to under-stand, not only offensively but

stand, not only one-navely but defensively. "Inexperience is something we have to get over quickly and not give teams more than three outs an inning. If we do that, I think we can be there."

**Farmington Falcons** With a dozen players return-ing and only three lost to gradu-ation, the Falcons are hoping a

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more experienced team will translate into a better record. Farmington was 8-25 last year but finished on a positive noto, even if it didn't register in the won-loss tally, according to coach "It wasn't that we weren't win-ning se much, but the team was coming together, hitting the ball and playing defense," she aid, adding the Falcons were tied with Catholic Leegue champion Parmington Hills Morey through six innings of a district game, 3-3. "It was too bad the season had

six innings of a district game, 3-"It was too bod the senson had to end. We'd like to build on where we ended up last year. A good goal would be around .500 if not a little more." The Falcons have their start-ing pitcher back in senior Kelsey Guisbort. Jennifer Thompson, who was on the JV last year, and freshman Karen Turkovich are vaniable if called upon, too. Senior Amy Paquette will bo behind the plate again with backup from sophomere Amanda Mergener. Tarmington is solid up the middle with seniors Julie Kim-midde with seniors Julie Kim-midde with seniors Julie Kim-midde with seniors upite Kim-Markow upite with seniors upite Kim-Markow upite Kim upite Kim-Markow upite Kim upite Kim-Markow upite Kim upite Kim-Markow upite Kim upite Kim upite Kim-Markow upite Kim upite Kim upite Kim-Markow upite Kim upite Kim upite Kim upite Kim upite Kim Markow upite Kim upite

Danielle Lewis, their lending hit-tor, to graduation, and her replacement will be either senior Ashleigh Bartlett or Turkovich. Harmsen also was considering Bartlett for the opening at third base along with junior Catherine Shaw, a returning varsity play-er, and Mergener. "We'll rotate them and see whe ends up being the most solid player there." Harmsen said. "The infielders) know what I wont as far as strategy and head pick up where we left off last year. Hopefully, it will be one of our strong points. We have some Bandin Brown, an all-

Senior Randin Brown, an all-Senior Randin Brown, an all-area volleyball player, is back to play center field again. Two of three roturning players - senior Lindsey Abbott and juniors Adri-enne Shaw and Mellesa Patter-son - will be in left and right folds

son - will be in left and right fields. The other varsity players are juniors Sandra Moyers, Hayley Variolone and Allison Kahrnoff. All are outfielders, although Meyers plays second base and Kahrnoff first base, also. "This year we'd like to work on some consistency and building the program," Harmson said. "Hopfeilly, we'll surprise some people. We hope to be a little tougher and a little more com-petitive." Farmington starts the season Monday when it plays host to Farmington Harnkes. fields.

Harrison Hawks

The Hawks also have their top pitcher back, as well as a num-ber of other key players, as they

attempt to improve on a 13-18 record. Sonior Kristin Schrock was 9 11 last esson with 166 strike Show 21 last esson with 166 strike otus in 125 innings and an ERA Sho'll help Harrison with her string role at the strike string role at third base. Cieland, who played shortstop bat, too, having hit for a .365 of the Harvison shortstop other than all-aree shortstop other with the most hits (23) batted .290 with 24 hits and was other than all-aree shortstop Al tot of girls worked hard in

outs in 125 innings and an ERA of 1.74. She'll help Harrison with her bat, too, having hit for a. 365 average with the most hits (29). other than all-area shortstop Kolly Taylor. The really came through with her hitting, coach Cassidy Munger said. "She was a consistent No. 3 batter, and we look forward to getting her on base more this year.

Consistents 40. 5 catter, into Wo book forward to gatting her on "What really helps is not just her actual leadership. Knowing-the game and having played so much longer than some of the girls is really helpful." Junior Beth Leeb is a capable backup, having pitched 74 innings last season and posted a 4.6 record. Many of the girls on the Harri-son team were members of the Farmington Hills Hornets, who wen the Girls Incredible Fast-pitch League championship last up or garan. On a fitnee was senior action

July and benefited from a sum-ore program. One of these was senior catch-er Jacqui Snylio, who might be used olsewhere on the infield, which would mean junior Erin Held, another returning player, will be behind the plate. Senior Ellen Doughty is a returning startor at first base with backup from junior Jenny Musick.

Musick

# Fediuk pitches Mercy to win

Senior all-area pitcher Megan adiuk was hor standout self riday as host Farmington Hills frery opened the softball season tith a 6-2 victory over Livonia Agdywood. An Schneider, Carly Tracey, A scheduled second game was inced out. Fediuk had two hits apiece for Fediuk struck out seven and Senior all-area pitcher Megan Fediuk was her standout self Friday as host Farmington Hills Mercy opened the softball season with a 6-2 victory over Livonia Ladvaced

Ladywood. A scheduled second game was

Schneider and Sarah Roman a double. ouble. Del Corvo, Fediuk, Holly Van Cleave, Schneider, Erin Agemy and Katie Jackson had one RBI

apiece. Erin Hulett and Meghann Wilkinson had two hits and RBI each for the Blazers.



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Becom in this should will be the flawks. "A lot of girls worked hard in the off season, and they've come back with a lot more power." Munger said, regarding the teams overall hitting shape. "I'm hoping the pitching we saw last season and through the summer will pay off and we'll be able to make an impression on some of those top pitchers in the league." Junior Merrill DeRoss will move from heft field to center in place of Gayle Ternes. Sophore Catle Ross, who was on the Jy last are, will start in center field and freshman Kristen Kluka in right field. "The outfield locks really strong," Munger said. "They way groat arms and like the challenge of going after the ball. I think they'll do well out there." Harrison begins the season Monday at Farnington. "That year it to the girls they had to be the pioneers of the fueld the yead they read. "I think they lock that very sort work." The summer, and worke look ing forked they worked hard worke that wery sort worked to how gione. "I think they took that very sort the summer, and worke look ing forked the season." The look ing forward to good things this year. "I think they may they they the season worked hard worke they they they the sead the season." The summer, and worked hard worked har

"A lot of girls worked hard in

year. "I tell them the game is so sim-ple - field the ball, catch the ball and throw the ball!"

Musick. Freshman Liz Ghannam appears to have won the job at second base, but Leeb and sopho-more Jodi Backrach can play