

Ravens look to have 'best season' in softball

Written by

DAN O'MEARA

May 8, 2011|

Royal Oak had a modest start to its 2011 [softball](#) season — due mainly to the poor weather that limited playing opportunities — but the Ravens plan to finish with a flare.

[Coach](#) Terry Powers' ballclub had played just nine games as of Wednesday, but it's solidly in the black with a 6-3 overall record.

The Ravens had five games postponed or cancelled because of extraordinarily bad weather in April, but all teams are dealing with that, Powers said.

"I don't remember being inside so much," he said. "Once you get outside, you stay outside. There have been so many days we've had to practice inside to keep an edge."

Powers is in his fifth season as the varsity coach, and the program has made steady progress during that time. The players have much better fundamentals than they did, he said.

Royal Oak was 2-2 in the OAA Blue Division after dropping a doubleheader to

Birmingham Groves last week, but Powers is confident the Ravens can rebound and be championship contenders.

"I'm expecting the best season this year," he said. "If we get a couple wins against (Farmington) Harrison (Wednesday), we can be right in the thick of it in the league."

Doing the pitching again is senior Taylor Fresch, who is also one of the team's best hitters. Senior Alex Tekip is a control pitcher who has spent considerable time in the circle, too.

Royal Oak has a pair of three-year varsity starters on the left side of the infield.

Seniors Nina Awdey and Alex Bleecker are tri-captains with Fresch; they play shortstop and third base, respectively.

Awdey, who had two triples and a double in the Groves games, is another of the leading hitters with an average in the .350 neighborhood.

Advertisement

Unable to connect

Firefox can't establish a connection to the server at ad.doubleclick.net.

- The site could be temporarily unavailable or too busy. Try again in a few moments.
- If you are unable to load any pages, check your computer's network connection.
- If your computer or network is protected by a firewall or proxy, make sure that Firefox is permitted to access the Web.

Bleecker's forte is bunting and getting on base to set the table for hitters like Fresch and Awdey.

Sophomore Faith Sulich, the leadoff batter, started at second base last year but moved to catcher to fill a need at that position.

Freshman Heather Cook plays first base, and sophomore Kendall Clarey is the new second baseman.

Senior Tori Lasley, a returning varsity player, is the center fielder, and junior Veronica Drulin starts in left field.

The right fielder is "whoever is playing well that day," Powers said.

The play of Drulin, who was on the jayvee, and Clarey has been a pleasant surprise this year, according to Powers, who added both are doing a great job.

"We're hitting the ball better than we have in the past," Powers said. "The young kids have to get more game experience to get better. I think our defense is pretty strong. We just have to eliminate the errors."

The Ravens, who were 4-10 in the OAA White Division last year and 14-20 overall, according to the oaa.timstats.net website, still have to play Harrison, Berkley and Rochester Stoney Creek in the Blue Division.

Feeling the Blues

The [Oakland](#) Activities Association Blue Division consists of the following six teams: Berkley, Birmingham Groves, Farmington Harrison, Hazel Park, Royal Oak and Stoney Creek

Advertisement

Unable to connect

Firefox can't establish a connection to the server at ad.doubleclick.net.

- The site could be temporarily unavailable or too busy. Try again in a few moments.
- If you are unable to load any pages, check your computer's network connection.
- If your computer or network is protected by a firewall or proxy, make sure that Firefox is permitted to access the Web.