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Kennedy softball team boasts .500 record

By Greg Kleven Apr 21, 2015



Kennedy's Ashley Nagel returns as her team's top softball pitcher this season. Nagel, a senior, has contributed greatly to Kennedy's 2-2 record in early-season action. (Sun Current file photo by Mark Trockman-trockstock.com)

Kennedy's softball program has made great strides forward from a year ago. Last season the Eagles were winless, but this spring Kennedy has already compiled a 2-2 record.

Kennedy edged Chaska 6-5 April 14 scoring the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning. The Eagles' other victory came against St. Louis Park as Kennedy achieved an 11-0, five-inning triumph April 8.

Kennedy's two losses were to Benilde-St. Margaret's (5-0) April 16, and Chanhassen (12-1) April 10.

"We are off to our best start in years," said Kennedy coach Ashley Saaranen. "Senior pitcher Ashley Nagel has provided solid defensive leadership and junior catcher Morgan Garbrecht has been doing a phenomenal job behind the plate.

"Garbrecht has also helped out offensively."

Kennedy freshman shortstop Ayania Leicht has been a pleasant surprise for the Eagles. "She is a quiet leader who has not only been an outstanding shortstop but is batting .600 through four games," said coach Saaranen.

Kennedy has also received senior leadership from second baseman Lauren Sapp, first baseman Sarah Smallfield and outfielders Haley Ziemke and Carla Barger.

Alexa Miller adds strength in center field and Casey Warden is aiding the Eagle cause while starting in right.

Raquel Taylor is playing third. Two other Kennedy varsity contributors are utility player Sydney Marr and infielder Anika Barland.

Kennedy will play host to Jefferson at 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 24, at Kelly Field. The Eagles remain home to play Cooper at 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 27. Kennedy meets St. Louis Park in another 4:30 p.m. Metro West Conference game Wednesday, April 29, at Kelly Field.

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