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## Kennedy softball program grows in numbers

By Greg Kleven Apr 14, 2016



Kennedy's Alexa Miller displays her pitching form in Metro West Conference softball action last season. Miller is one of Kennedy's tri-captains this season along with Morgan Garbrecht and Raquel Taylor. (Sun Current file photo by Mark Trockman-trockstock.com)

MARK TROCKMAN

Depth has been a problem for the Kennedy High School softball program throughout the years. But Eagle head coach Ashley Saaranen reports a large turnout of varsity and junior varsity team candidates this season.

"I am so excited about this coming season," said the Eagle coach. "We have a lot of potential and depth that we have never had in recent seasons.

"We had been averaging 33 softball participants for Kennedy in the past. But this season I had 50 girls register to play. This is an exciting time for Kennedy softball."

Kennedy will rely on leadership from senior tri-captains Morgan Garbrecht, Raquel Taylor and Alexa Miller.

“Our captains will all play important roles on this team,” said Saaranen. “Garbrecht is our catcher and also be used at third base.

“Taylor is at third and Miller will play center field when she is not pitching.”

Kennedy returns Ayania Leicht at shortstop. “She was one of our top hitters last season and is an incredible fielder,” said Saaranen.

Casey Warden will provide power offensively and help the team in the outfield according to the Kennedy coach.

Sydney Marr will see double duty for the Eagles as a catcher and second baseman. “She has worked very hard in the off-season and we expect big things from her.”

Lefthander Courtney Kopischke, an eighth-grader, will be one of the Eagles’ top pitchers.

Kennedy hosts Chanhassen in a 4:30 p.m. Metro West Conference game Thursday, April 14, at Kelly Field. The Eagles play Holy Angels at 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 15, at Lincoln Field in Richfield.

Kennedy travels to Chaska for a conference clash at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 19.

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