

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL

BASEBALL

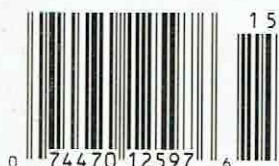


1991

\$3.00



**1990 Division II State Champions
URBANA HIGH SCHOOL**



**State-Wide Coverage
Complete Team Summaries
Top Teams And Players**

Wolf and junior Matt Durham. Wolf was 3-1 last season with a 5.19 ERA; Durham went 2-2 with a 4.38 ERA.

Offensively, Whitmer can count on a pair of all-league standouts in senior centerfielder Matt Wilson (.391, 1 HR, 11 RBI) and junior third baseman Andy Follas (.363, 2 HR, 21 RBI, 10 stolen bases).

Ron Lukasik, a senior shortstop who batted .267, also returns to the starting lineup, along with senior catcher Eric Fritz (.289, 25 stolen bases).

Todd Barabash, a senior who led the team in hitting over the summer, has earned a starting spot in the outfield. Another senior — Gary Hollstein — will get the nod at second after a strong summer showing.

Whitmer lost three excellent players in all-state standout Mark Wietrzykowski (P/3B), all-district selection Mark Szymkowiak (2B) and Chad Whiting (1B-OF, .413, 2 HR, 32 RBI, 19 stolen bases). But the Panthers appear stacked for another run at the GLL title.

OREGON CLAY (7-3, 21-8) obviously won't hand Whitmer the GLL trophy without a strong fight of its own, especially with a strong pitching staff and a potent lineup that can match the Panthers man for man.

Richard Kandik has chalked up a 321-112 career record and guided the Eagles to six GLL championships in his 16 years as head coach. He could pad those totals and honors this season thanks to the return of five quality seniors.

Pitching will also be a strength of the Eagles with Steve Finch and Jason Besgrove back for their final season. Finch, a first-team all-GLL selection, was 8-2 a year ago with a 1.43 ERA. He struck out 57 batters in 54 innings work.

Besgrove went 5-2 on the mound with a 3.35 ERA and a better strikeout ratio than Finch (59 in 47 innings). Kandik also has high hopes for Josh Jaco, who went 8-0 for last year's JV team.

Finch at first base (.247) and Besgrove in the outfield (.294) will also be key men in the Eagles' offense. Kandik must replace the power supplied by Brett Burns (.435, Sienna Heights College), Rob Belegrin (.327, Ferris State), Joe Thatcher (.352, University of Toledo), Dennis Walendzak (.312, University of Findlay) and Chris McWatters (.313).

But in outfielders Jay Dunn (.407) and Matt Szollosi (.305) and third baseman Jeff Cousino (.259) the Eagles have a solid offense returning.

FOSTORIA (4-6, 10-12) Coach Todd Helms rebuilt the program once. He can do it again.

Helms, entering his third year as head coach, took the Redmen from 9-17 to 10-12 last year, but he has several shoes to fill. Some of the fastest belonged to all-GLL shortstop Aaron Hampton, who led the league in hitting (.433)

Also gone are two second-team all-leaguers — first baseman Mike Sterling and third baseman Bryan Leon-

ard — as well as second baseman Kurt Huber.

Much of Helms' squad will be young. But it is a talented group headed by two excellent sophomores — pitcher Tony Hammond and outfielder Russell Robinson.

Most of the pitching staff returns in tact in Hammond, junior Greg Flores and senior Todd Six. Offensively, Helms will counting on Hammond, Robinson, Brooks Lance and Rob Baker to carry the load.

SYLVANIA NORTHVIEW (3-7, 7-21) also returns a young team as Jack Koch (86-91) enters his eighth year as the Wildcats head coach.

Pitching will be Hoch's top priority after the graduation of three starters. Also gone is GLL Player of the Year Brian Koch, an all-Ohio standout who committed just six errors in 28 games and batted .416 with 24 RBI and 23 stolen bases. Koch was also 3-6 as a pitcher with a 3.35 ERA and 48 strikeouts.

The graduation of Bill Lary, a first-team all-league third baseman who batted .414 with 14 RBI, also takes a big chunk from the offense.

Northview's pitching staff will likely boast just one senior. Juniors and sophomores will man the other spots in the rotation.

In the field and in the lineup, Koch will be looking to two tested seniors — centerfielder Mike Busch (.286) and second-team all-GLL catcher Jeff Kalmbach (.305) to lead the attack.

NAPOLEON (2-8, 5-15) will also be

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