

North Bullitt Baseball Camp



Mike Farner

The final camp of the summer happened on the Brian Wise Field at North Bullitt High School. Baseball camp sponsored by the Eagle program was recently held.

EAGLES

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Mink and new assistant coach Becca Johnson, a former Bullitt Central player, have 29 players in the program and just one of those players is middle school age. That means that almost half the team is made up of seniors.

Still, the coach is the first to point out that most of those seniors have not been in the program back to their seventh-grade seasons. Several just started playing as juniors and a few others started playing soccer as freshmen or sophomores.

With just a week remaining until the first game of the season, Mink is not set on a starting lineup. There is also the situation with senior Jayda Fiske. She is part of Mink's

Lady Eagle track team in the spring, but had an injury and opted to have surgery over the summer to be ready for the track season. She will probably not play this fall, but is on the roster.

On Tuesday, Mink had a large group of players that she put in a group that at some point will be separated with some being forwards and other mid-fielders. The good news is that many of the Lady Eagles are flexible enough that they can fill different roles from game-to-game.

"We have a lot to replace," Mink said about building on last season's 7-12-1 record. That team lost to Whitefield Academy in the Super Regional 1-0 in the rain just ten days after beating the same team on their home field 2-1.

"A lot of girls need to step up into their roles," the coach added.

Because the coach had to be out of the country last week and several players were still working, the decision was made not to attend the Bluegrass State Games. That is where North Bullitt normally plays what some coaches consider their 'scrimmages.' The team also had no scrimmages this week and so will open play on Monday on the road at Eastern High School without any warm-up.

This is definitely one of those seasons where the Lady Eagles will be better at the end of September than the product on the field to open the season.

"We better be better," Mink said with a big smile. "If not, then I am not doing my job."

One position that is solidified is in the goal keeper spot where senior Celia Sweatt returns. She

played off and on between the pipes over the first part of last season, sharing time of senior Kotey Hill. When Mink felt like the team was better with Hill out playing in the field, she put Sweatt in the goal on a full-time basis.

The back-up in goal will be freshman Keara Payne.

In the four spots in front of Sweatt, Mink has a pretty good idea who will fill three of those roles. The coach is hoping that senior Myah McIntyre and senior Karli Coleman can play in the two center-back spots. One of the outside players on the defensive line will be freshman Madison Elmore. The coach was planning on Fiske handling the opposite side, but her injury ended that hope. Senior Mariana Montefusco could play the spot, but that is just not possible as Mink would prefer her to play offense.

That will leave senior

Miley McNeill and junior Jasmyn Edwards as the two leading players to fill that position.

The other starting positions all reside in that large group of athletes mentioned earlier to play in the midfield and at the forward spots. The grouping includes sophomore Kaydence Lindsey, senior Dayerline Jalimar, Freshman Keara Payne, senior Hannah Conen, sophomore Kallie Davis and Mariana Montefusco, a senior.

Jalimar is the team's leading returning scorer after converting ten goals and having five assists a year ago.

Added to that mix will be foreign exchange student Lea Schaefer who is from Germany. What little Mink knows about Schaefer leaves an indication that she will play in the midfield.

"One thing I like about

this group is that they fluid," Mink said. "I could shift some to defense and they could handle it or I can move them from midfield to forward and be comfortable.

"We just need some more scrimmage time to see what our best chemistry is," the coach added.

The Lady Eagles have three games scheduled during the first week of the regular season, against Eastern, Butler and Christian Academy of Indiana. On Tuesday, August 18, the green and gold will play at Mercy. That will be a day after the Jaguars played Bullitt Central.

The game between North Bullitt and Bullitt Central is set for Saturday, August 22, in Shepherdsville at 10 a.m. The Lady Eagles' game against Bullitt East will be on Monday, September 28 in Mount Washington.



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