SOFTBALL 03/09/2017 Z. BARES

 The UW-River Falls softball team heads into its 2017 season after graduating several players from last year’s team and with an injury in its pitching rotation. Zach Bares (BARR-ish) has more on the story.

MP3 RUNS: 1:07 O/C: STD

ZACH BARES: HEAD COACH AMBER DOHLMAN (DOLE-min) ENTERS HER SECOND SEASON AT THE HELM OF THE FALCONS SOFTBALL PROGRAM AND EXPECTS IT TO BE A GROWING YEAR FOR THE PROGRAM AFTER LOSING SEVERAL PLAYERS OFF OF LAST YEARS TEAM THAT WENT 14, 22 AND 1. IN A PHONE INTERVIEW SHE SAYS PITCHING IS THE MAIN CONCERN.

AMBER DOHLMAN: “WE’VE GOT A YOUNG PITCHING STAFF AND A STAFF WHO SAW A DECENT AMOUNT OF INNINGS LAST YEAR, BUT THE MAIN PERSON WE HAD DIDN’T COME BACK THIS YEAR SO WE’RE PUTTING A LOT OF PRESSURE ONTO A SOPHOMORE AND A FRESHMAN.”

ZACH BARES: THE FALCONS RETURN TWO ALL-CONFERENCE PLAYERS FROM LAST YEAR'S TEAM IN AIYANA LEDWEIN AND SHANNON BORCHARDT ALONG WITH STARTING INFIELDER ALI MURRAY. DOHLMAN SAYS THAT THE EARLY PART OF THE SEASON WILL BE FIGURING OUT PEOPLE’S ROLES WITHIN THE TEAM.

AMBER DOHLMAN: “WE’RE FIGURING THINGS OUT AND THAT’S WHAT THE WEEKEND WAS ABOUT, TOO, IS WE MADE A LOT OF CHANGES. OUR LINEUP WAS NEVER THE SAME, THE SAME NINE KIDS WERE NEVER OUT ON THE SAME FIELD AT THE SAME TIME BECAUSE WE’RE TRYING TO FIGURE THINGS OUT. AND THAT’S WHAT WE KEEP TELLING THEM, IS WE’VE GOT TO BE RUNNING ON FULL CYLINDERS FOR CONFERENCE.”

ZACH BARES: THE TEAM WENT 0-3 IN THEIR FIRST WEEKEND OF ACTION IN ST. PAUL. THEIR NEXT GAME WILL IN FLORIDA ON MARCH 12TH. THE FIRST HOME GAME FOR THE FALCONS DOESN’T COME UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH. FOR THE FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M ZACH BARES.

 Two of the three Falcons opponents in St. Paul were ranked in the Top 10 of the national division three softball polls.

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