



Rising To The Challenge

Aviators will leverage inexperience with hard work

VANDALIA - It's been said that tradition never graduates. The Aviators will put that old adage to the test in 2013, as they try to fill the void left by 11 graduated seniors from last season's Regional Semi-Finalist team.

The challenge ahead is not lost on head coach Trent Dues. "Our varsity team has some holes to fill. There are a lot of questions that need to be answered during practice, scrimmages and during the early part of the season", said Dues who enters his 19th season at the helm of the varsity baseball team.

Butler will rely on a number of solid returning players, and host of young, up and coming talent from last season's JV and freshman ranks. When asked about his returning core, Dues said, "We have some key returners in Myers, Yorgen and Hansman, so hopefully they can up their game while some of the other guys step in and do the job to carry us to success."

On the mound the Aviators will have a number of arms vying for innings. Seniors Todd Reichard, Josh Edwards, and Eric Hansman are the veterans. Junior Jacob Larger, sophomores Alex Schulke, Alex Murphy, and freshman Mitch Gremling will likely be the newcomers in the mix. Seniors Pete Yorgen and John Myers will be available for added depth in the bullpen.

Behind the plate, Butler returns University of Findlay signee Pete Yorgen. John Myers and Jacob Naas will provide depth at the position.

First base will be anchored by senior Logan Mann, Alex Murphy, and Mitch Gremling. Mann returns to the position after a number of logged innings last season.

Second base looks to be a battle between junior Bret Bachman, Alex Schulke, and freshman Dustin Lewis.

Returning for his third season as the starting shortstop is John Myers. Myers' stout defense and senior leadership should bolster the infield. Schulke will provide depth at shortstop.

Third base will be platooned by senior Jeff Lawson, Gremling, and Schulke, as they each are expected to see time manning the hot corner.

Patrolling the outfield will be seniors Eric Hansman, Logan Mann, Mitch Grafton, and junior Jacob Naas.

Senior Jordan Manning and junior Parker Shay will be called upon to provide defensive depth and pinch running.

"We have nine seniors on the roster so even though some don't have a lot of varsity experience, we do have older players that know how to play the game", said Dues. "The guys are working hard and time will tell as to how it all works out."