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NEWS RELEASE

SETON LOOKS TO START ANOTHER SOFTBALL RUN IN 4A-II

PHOENIX, AZ (April 27, 2009) – Chandler Seton Catholic was the model of consistency when it played softball in Arizona’s 2A and 3A classifications.

The Sentinels won 2A state championships in 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 and 3A crowns in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005.

Now, in just its second year in Class 4A Division II, Seton is poised to start a new successful sequence.

Through April 24, Seton had a 23-4 overall record and was No. 1 in the Arizona Interscholastic Association’s power points system.

“The girls are hitting pretty well right now, and we have gotten good pitching all year,” said longtime coach Jerry Mullin.

Mullin and his coaching staff knew the team would have a good pitcher returning this year in sophomore Olivia Bergman. She battled former Phoenix Arcadia pitching star Paula Liebler down to the wire in extra-inning games twice last season as the teams split the games.

Seton went on to post a respectable showing in the state tournament, falling to eventual champion Phoenix Greenway in the semifinals.

Bergman had a 19-1 record through April 24.

What Mullin termed a pleasant surprise this spring has been the pitching of freshman Kristal Whiteside, who had a 3-2 mark.

Seton played in two high-profile mid-season tournaments this year, the Desert Mountain in Scottsdale and the Best of the West in Santa Maria, Calif. Seton finished second to defending Class 5A Division I champion Chandler Basha in the Desert Mountain and was 3-2 in the Best of the West.

“We were really pleased with how the girls played in those tournaments,” Mullin said. “We knew they would be tough, but those are the types of games you want, usually close in a state tournament-type setting.”

The hitting has been strong. Seton has relied heavily on a pair of juniors who switch back and forth between first base and catcher, Kelsey Rodriguez (.493 batting average) and Megan Johnson (.422).

Two seniors set the table at the top of the batting order. Center fielder Carissa Reisinger leads off most of the time, followed by second baseman Landry Davis (.485) in the No. 2 spot.

“They slap the ball and try to get on base any way they can,” Mullin said.

It is reminiscent, he said, of the 2002 title team.

“We have a good balance of older and younger players,” Mullin said.

“These girls are highly motivated. They work hard, but they also enjoy the game.

“We believe we have a good chance of doing well in the state tournament, but we don’t want to look down the road too far. The old saying of taking one game at a time, that’s what we have to do.”

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