

SPARTANS: Softballers look strong again in 2019

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At catcher, Kelly and Mackenzie Long are vying for the starting spot but both are expected to get playing time in a long season.

McLemore is a three-year starter at shortstop and she'll return to that spot this season. "She's really improved the last year or two both offensively and defensively," Sunnycalb said. Head, also a three-year starter, will return to center field where she covers a lot of ground. At the plate she had the Spartans' second-highest batting average a year ago, "and she should pick up where she left off," Sunnycalb said.

Goff will return to the circle for the Spartans. Sunnycalb said she has "shown tremendous leadership on the mound and has

made big strides from the beginning of her high school career up to now."

Overall, the Spartans are looking good heading into the season. "I think we'll be OK offensively," Sunnycalb said. "We did lose some key bats from our lineup but we've got some young kids coming up that hopefully can replace them. We're hoping we're going to pick up where we left off last season."

Where they left off last season was the Class 6A state tournament and a season that included more than 40 victories. That's quite an act to follow but then again, Saraland has the experience, talent and tradition that should weigh in its favor as the Spartans chase area, regional and state crowns again this season.



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