

# Two Harbors U-14's Enjoying Summer Softball

By John Sandstrom

Coach Ori Scherer says some of her best memories as a high school softball player for the Milaca Wolves came in her years playing summer ball. "We played hard, but we always played with our friends and we always seemed to have fun." Scherer, who is a teacher at Two Harbors High School and also the JV coach for the Agates, is in her second season coaching the U-14 team in Two Harbors.

"This spring's high school softball season was a little different than most. We were always unsure if we were going to have a full season. As a result, we put an emphasis on ensuring that the girls had fun. It was probably less

intense than a normal year."

The U-14 team plays in a summer league with teams from communities like Silver Bay, Virginia, Eveleth, Chisholm, Hibbing, Mesabi East and Ely. Each team plays one double header each week with teams typically trading off between home and away games each week.

Coach Scherer says that, "with a small school like we have, girls must often play far above their normal age group. In summer ball, players play with girls close to their own age". Most of the Two Harbors girls will be in eighth or ninth grade next year.

Rachel Bopp will be a freshman next year. As an eighth grader this past season, injuries forced her into being the primary pitcher for the Agate varsity (and she performed well). "Even though we have some different coaches, the intensity is consistent. In some ways it is more fun because I am with my classmates." Bopp, who also plays volleyball and basketball, has played second base and shortstop during the season. She intends to go to a pitching camp and just wants to become a better overall player. "I have really enjoyed seeing our team get better and better each practice and each game."

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