

Defending Champs to be Solid Again

Ted Miller's First Season at Leipsic

Putnam County Sentinel – March 27, 1974

A solid defense and a couple of good hurlers will dot the roster of the defending PCL baseball champions, the Leipsic Vikings, and with them will be a new head coach in Ted Miller.

Miller is a 1971 graduate of Findlay College and the first-year mentor played four years of baseball for the Oiler teams.

The new coach will have eight returning lettermen back from the 1973 championship club to build his team around.

Three seniors head that list along with five pitchers who saw limited action.

Steve Winkle and Arnie Hinojosa are two senior lettermen who saw plenty of action on the mound last year, and these two players will be in the line up regularly with Winkle moving to third base and Hinojosa journeying out to the outfield when they're not pitching.

Bob Glanz, a catcher, is the third returning senior on the club that has three veteran juniors and another two sophomores who earned their varsity letters as freshmen last year, also returning to this year's unit.

Roger Ellerbrock, Bill Buckland and Armando Hinojosa, all juniors, and sophomores Denny Maag and Duane Niese are the other lettermen on the team.

Buckland and Hinojosa will be in the outfield while Niese will play first, Ellerbrock will hold the second base position

and Maag will handle the shortstop duties. Buckland, Maag and Niese will also help out on the mound when the Vikings' schedule swings into high gear.

Other players on the roster vying for starting positions are: Jerry Ritter, junior outfielder; Jake Trevino, junior first baseman; Steve Mangus, junior infielder; Bruce Meyer, sophomore catcher; Duane Tooman, freshman catcher; Tracey Place, freshman infielder, Roger Meyer, freshman outfielder; Brian Cupp, freshman infielder; and Ron Christman, a freshman infielder.

When asked what he thought was his club's strong points, Miller stated, "We will have a good defense to go with our good pitching." He added that Winkle, Hinojosa and Buckland should be the club's top pitchers and that the hitting is still a little questionable.

Miller continued to say that the club's weakest spot would have to be in the outfield, noting, "We will have to play a couple of young kids in the outfield since that is our weakest point."

However with eight returning lettermen, opposing clubs can expect the Viking to be tough once again in the league when they open the PCL play a week from today against the Kalida Wildcats.