

# Rome Sentinel

## Veteran leadership, pitching key for Redskins

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### (One in a Series)

ORISKANY — After an 18-5 finish last season and a loss in the Section III Class D final, the Oriskany baseball team will be looking for revenge this spring.

Weather-permitting, Oriskany opens its season on Friday afternoon at 4:30 at home against Poland. Oriskany was originally slated to open its season today against Morrisville-Eaton, but that game has been postponed.

Entering his 13th year at the helm of the Redskins, head coach Tom Meiss, who is one win shy of 200 career victories, says his team has veteran leadership and pitching depth this year.

The Redskins, who fell in the Class D final to LaFargeville 2-1, lost five players due to graduation. They are Nick Commisso, Sam Corrigan, Ryan Enos, Austin Knowles and Dean Mealey. Enos is playing college ball at Oswego State.

“We’re looking to get veteran leadership from our three senior captains, Aaron Drake, Colin Kraeger and Ricky Phelps,” Meiss said.

Drake is a pitcher and outfielder while Phelps will patrol centerfield and pitch this season for the Redskins. Kraeger is a utility player. Drake, Phelps and Kraeger are the only seniors on the Oriskany squad this year.

Juniors on Oriskany’s team are outfielder Dylan LaSalle, outfielder-pitcher Brandon Reid, second baseman-pitcher Matt Enos, catcher-pitcher Carl Graziadei, third baseman-pitcher John Longieretta and outfielder Kyle McGrath.

Sophomores that the Redskins will have are shortstop Colton Davis, second baseman Ethan Burrows and utility player Steven Armstrong. First baseman and pitcher Keagan Kraeger is the lone freshman on Oriskany’s roster.

“We’re good contact hitters so situational hitting will also be an area of strength for us this season,” Meiss said.

Meiss also went on to say that the Redskins have defensive versatility this year. “We will be able to adapt and move people to different positions based on our pitching rotation.”

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