



BIRDS OF PREY

The WB, Wednesday, 9 P.M.

THE PREMISE: Three hot heroines (including Batman and Catwoman's daughter!) join forces to battle crime in New Gotham City.

WHY IT'S DIFFERENT: A comic-book-inspired super-chick hasn't stormed the tube since *Wonder Woman's* lasso-twirling days in the '70s.

THE PLAYERS: (Above, from left) Dina Meyer, 33, plays former-Batgirl-turned-fearless-leader Oracle; Ashley Scott, 25, is Huntress, the

fruit of Batman and Catwoman's doomed love affair; and Rachel Skarsten, 17, is Dinah, a runaway whose telepathic visions help the trio stomp out crime.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE FEMMES FATALES: "Oracle studied the Filipino art of stick fighting, so she can basically kick your ass, even in a wheelchair," says Dina, whose character becomes a paraplegic after a run-in with the Joker (voiced by Mark Hamill of *Star Wars*). Adds Ashley: "It's not just a bunch of chicks running around so the guys can perv on it."

BUT THEY STILL LOOK BABELICIOUS: "It's very sexy goth," says Ashley of the show's leather-and-whips getups. "Which I am not."

BOTTOM LINE: Buffy, watch your back! *Birds of Prey* is from the producers of *Smallville*, so expect plenty of girlie drama mixed with high-tech special effects.