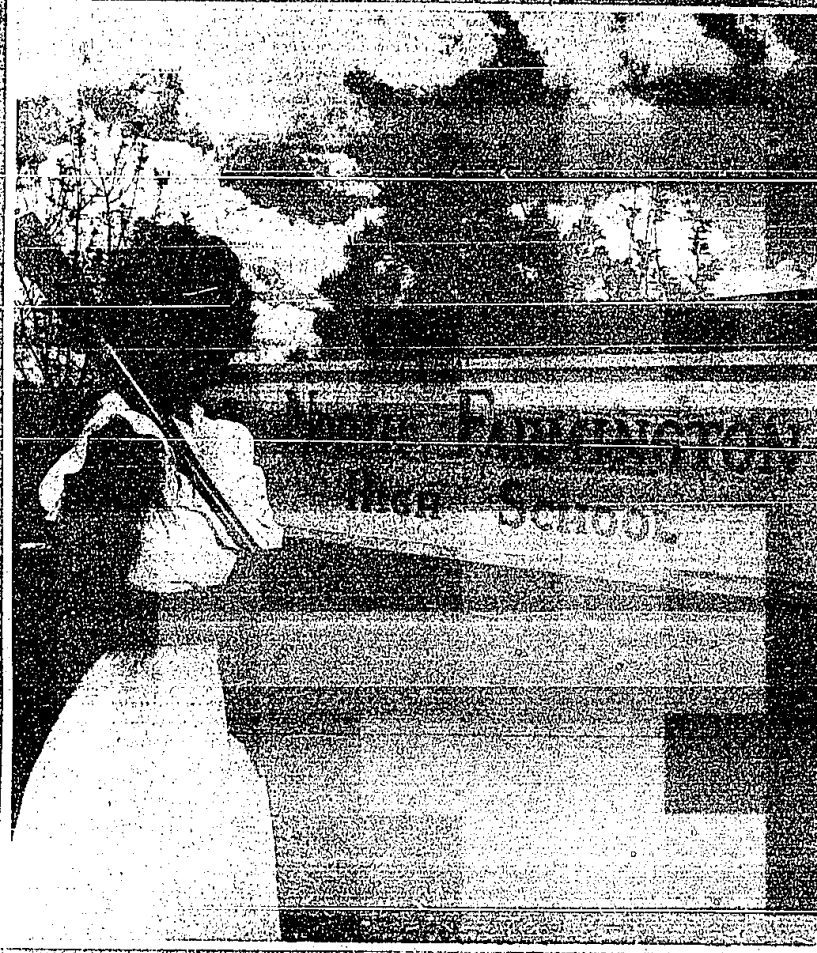




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Athlete of the Year

They don't call her awesome for nothing

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

YOU HAVE TO look beyond the statistics to fully appreciate the accomplishments of Amy Austin.

The statistics, however, aren't easy to overlook.

Austin graduated last month from North Farmington High School with a 3.6 grade point average. She was a three-year, three-sport standout athlete.

"Amy was the finest all-around female athlete ever to come out of this school," said Dennis Mikal, who was both coach and counselor to Austin. "I'm not so sure she wasn't the finest athlete, period, boy or girl."

In basketball, Austin led the Raiders to a 41-11 record and two Northwest Suburban League titles in her three seasons. To say that she did it all for the Raiders would be an understatement. She scored 875 career points, an average of about 18 per game, she rebounded (averaging 10 a game the past two seasons), she made steals, she blocked shots — all this despite being double and triple teamed throughout her career.

records in volleyball. Her career stats read as follows: 583 digs, 245 tips, 317 blocks, 1,089 spikes, and 419 ace spikes. She was successful on 91 percent of her serves and 90 percent on service reception.

In softball, Austin had a career batting average of .408. She stole 71 bases in 74 attempts. She struck out just six times in 186 official at-bats. She holds every school and individual offensive record (except most strikeouts) at North.

In her senior season, Austin made first team All-Area in all three sports and earned all-state honors in all three. Those are just some of the reasons why they call her *Awsome Amy Austin*. And there are just some of the reasons why she has been chosen the first Farmington Observer Athlete of the Year.

Believe it or not, there is much more to Austin than just those statistics. There has been considerable writing this gifted athlete on "talent, determination, to succeed — a determination that at times transforms into an obsession."

THE FARMINGTON OBSERVER has been looking for Amy Austin for a long time. She has been called "the greatest female athlete in the state" by the *Observer*.

Call Austin her name, she says, in her own words. "I'm not sure she wasn't the finest athlete, period, boy or girl."

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— Dennis Mikal
North Farmington coach

Oll knew early on that Amy was going to be a winner. When Amy was in the second grade, the Olls found out about the "talent" she had in her.

"We were very proud of her," Oll says. "I think she was a very special girl."

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the team's shortstop and immediately took charge of the team — much to the chagrin of the Olls.

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for the Austin family, especially for Amy. It's the type of tragedy that can turn a young person's life completely around. Not so for Amy.

"If anything," said Oll, "it drove her even harder, made her better."

Amy doesn't necessarily agree. She prefers not to talk about it.

Oll "didn't" say, "Amy Austin's drive to succeed never, however, the efforts have resulted in a full-time basketball scholarship to the University of Detroit."

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as anyone here. She is going to surprise a lot of people. Not me. I know she can play. But, she is going to be a surprise to the opposition.

Amy Austin has done quite well for herself. She has parlayed her tremendous athletic skills, her intelligence and her unrelenting determination into an all-expense-paid trip to four more years of basketball and a degree in engineering — the dream being her ultimate goal.

Remember in history, that Austin is standing and cheering for his client directly.

Each year, the Farmington Observer will honor our high school athlete as "The Athlete of the Year."

The person selected will be chosen from either Farmington, Herkshire, Farmington, North Farmington, or Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy high schools.

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