

Sports

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Mercy pitcher highlights honor team



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Amy Edward is one of the premier pitchers in Observeland, and the Mercy star is only a junior. She won 25 games last season and batted .715.

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

AMY EDWARD HAS one of the best-recognized names among Observeland high school softball players.

And while much has been written about the Farmington Hills Mercy star's diamond exploits in recent seasons, neither readers nor opponents have heard the last of her.

Edward, who highlights the 1988 All-Observeland softball team, is only a junior and will have one more year to add to her already impressive pitching and hitting statistics.

Mercy and Westland John Glenn had the area's most successful teams and, not surprisingly, produced half of the 10 players on the honor squad. The Western Lakes Activities Association champion Rockets put three players on the team — catcher Brenda Coats, first baseman Denise Gumke and infielder Lolita Burgess — while Edward is joined by teammate Kerry Sayers, an outfielder and another of four juniors on the team.

Mercy, the Catholic League runner-up, landed four players on the All-Area second team and John Glenn three.

ALL-AREA PLAYERS

Amy Edward, junior, Our Lady of Mercy, Edward, one of the area's dominant pitchers for two years, just might be the best all-round player in Observeland. In addition to being an excellent pitcher, she also hits the ball extremely well.

Edward was 25-9-1 last season and has compiled a three-year pitching record of 55-19-1 for the Marlins, who have won district championships the last two years. She pitched 219 innings in 1988 and recorded 167 strikeouts, 67 walks and a 1.37 earned run average.

As a hitter, she batted an incredible .715 with 78 hits, 32 extra-base hits (21 doubles, eight triples, three home runs) and 47 RBI. She struck out just twice.

"(Edward) is one of those players who comes along once in a coach's career," Mercy coach Suzanne Brown said. "I was just lucky to have her come as a freshman and in my first year of coaching."

"I can honestly say that Mercy's success in the past three years can mostly be attributed to Amy Edward."

Amy Edward
MercyKerry Sayers
MercyMelissa Tiedale
FarmingtonLisa Manning
StevensonKristen Wasil
Garden City

Randy Borst staff photos

Kristen Wasil, senior, Garden City: Wasil followed in the footsteps of former Cougar star Shelly Malone and compiled an 18-8 record with six shutouts when it was her turn to be the team's top pitcher last season.

Wasil, who posted a 32-11 career record, struck out 165 and walked 42 in 175 innings last season. Opponents managed just 1.44 runs against her per game. In her career, she had 258 strikeouts, 90 walks and a 1.61 ERA. Wasil hit .273, scored 25 runs and had 17 RBI as a senior.

"Kris is an excellent defensive pitcher with great control," Garden City coach Barry Patterson said. "The one quality I admired most about Kris was that when the game was on the line, she was always at her best."

Brenda Coats, senior, John Glenn: Coats was one of the mainstays in a potent Rocket lineup, hitting .466 in 24 games, tying teammate Beth Wilson

for most hits (35) and leading the team in runs scored with 46.

Coats, who earned a softball scholarship to Wayne State, also had 11 extra-base hits (three homers, four doubles, four triples) and 36 RBI. From her catching position, she made 66 putouts and 10 assists.

"(Coats) is a very aggressive catcher with a strong arm," Glenn coach Linda Jimenez said. "She hits for power, yet can bunt for a base hit. It will be very tough to replace her next year."

Denise Gumke, senior, John Glenn: Gumke hit .303 last season and had 25 RBI. She had her best game against Lakes Division co-champion Plymouth Salem when she hit two triples. Gumke, a first baseman for the league champs, scored 22 runs, hit six doubles, walked 16 times and struck out just seven times in 66 at-bats. She also made 103

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1988 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM

FIRST TEAM

P-Amy Edward	Mercy
C-Brenda Coats	Garden City
1B-Denise Gumke	John Glenn
INF-Anni Munding	Salem
INF-Lisa Manning	Stevenson
INF-Lolita Burgess	John Glenn
OF-Rose O'Bay	Franklin
OF-Kerry Sayers	Mercy
OF-Melissa Tiedale	Farmington

SECOND TEAM

P-Beth Wilson	John Glenn
C-Nicki Fraser	Salem
1B-Mary McKenna	Mercy
INF-Christina Hoffman	John Glenn
INF-Kristen Olandson	Mercy
INF-Amy Thompson	Garden City
OF-Elacy Faith	Garden City
OF-Cyndi Vail	Mercy
OF-Michèle Myrnes	John Glenn

COACH OF THE YEAR

Linda Jimenez	John Glenn
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Honorable Mention

Livonia: Stevenson; Irish Koskowiak, Pam Fulwood, Rocky Chior, Westland John Glenn; Tracy Martin, Farmington; Kelli Koon, Lisa Rockafellow, Redford Thornton; Anne Marie Mose, Penny Soucy, Zanele Parris, Stacy Gieser, Farmington; Molly McDowell, Buzi McNeil, Julie Jozwick, Jerry Gondek, Garden City; Jennifer Williams, Plymouth Salem; Sandy Oberlin, Trade Lindholm, Mary Vitek, Plymouth Canton; Stacy Thompson, Alton Fleisher, Mary George, Plymouth Christian; Elaine Priber, Livonia; Priscilla Lisa Sherry, North Farmington; Sheri Bonczak, Kelly Coulton, Canton; Viki Deane, Livonia; Denise Ahnert, Yari Webster, Karen Zerk, Jerry Querc, Redford; Lori Lippert, Lisa Pritter, Todd Bates, Jerrisa Borel, Shelly Zerk, Janel Hestala, Sharon Wilcox, Redford; Stephanie Borgman, Mary Gandy, Lisa Gandy, Yari Hestala, Livonia; Cathy (Auntie) Mack, Plymouth; Lynne Lash, Westland; Heather White, Kent Campus; David Dolanek, Jerry Kennedy, Marlene Kitzel, Redford; B. Anshel, Dean West, Kent Campus.

Mickey Mantle ballclub on tourney in Wis.

South Farmington's Mickey Mantle baseball team was off to a fast start Friday in the Stars of Tomorrow baseball tournament in LaCrosse, Wis.

The Michiganders won their first three games in round-robin play and needed two more wins to advance to the quarterfinal round.

The 40-team tournament that included teams from South Carolina and Canada was divided into eight five-team divisions with each winner heading three wins thereafter to capture the championship.

In its first game, South Farmington pounded the host ballclub 12-3 in five innings behind the three-hit pitching of Chris Schmidt, who fanned seven batters and walked two.

James Alexander was 3-for-3 and knocked in three runs as Farmington led 9-0 after two innings. Ben Underwood (2-4) and Dave Miracle (2-0) also had two hits and two RBI apiece.

THE SECOND victory was not so easily achieved, as the Michigan team beating previously undefeated Irons, Minn., 4-3.

Winning pitcher Jeff Jensen pitched six innings over 94 batters before being pulled for a pinch hitter in the final out of the game.

Walking base hit by Jason Hicks was the winning run in relief of starter Dave Skown. Hicks

Kevin Young was the hitting star, going 3-for-4 and getting four RBI. All three of his hits were doubles, and the big one was a bases-loaded double in a five-run first inning.

Hardy had three singles and a double while going 4-for-4, and Underwood and Pirronello had two hits each in four trips.

South Farmington had its back to the wall in the next game before rallying from a 6-0 deficit to defeat St. Cloud, Minn., 6-2.

Scott Kakatos went all the way for the win despite giving up seven hits and six walks, but only one St. Cloud run was earned. He struck out three.

FARMINGTON GOT on the scoreboard with a three-run sixth. All the work of Joey Venturini's bases-loaded double.

Then came the game-winning home run when coach Tom Patterson's hardball got a 1-1-1 rocket with two runs in the top of the seventh.

7th-inning rally falls short by 1

A tremendous comeback effort fell just short Thursday as North Farmington-West Bloomfield dropped a 7-6 decision to Southfield Lathrup in Connie Mack baseball action.

NFWB trailed 7-0 heading into the seventh inning, but it rallied to make the game close by scoring all six runs in its final at-bat.

Rick Rachner and Jack Herberholz singled home runs, Mike Mackie added an RBI sacrifice fly and Todd Kaluzny's base hit flayed the bags and set the table for Jerry Hakala's two-run single that made the score 7-6.

Jay Marcoux, who had started the rally, got his second hit of the inning with two outs to pull NFWB within a run. NFWB had runners at third and second when the game ended with a strikeout.

baseball

Herberholz was 3-for-4 and Hakala 2-for-3. NFWB's record slipped to 6-3 with the loss.

ON WEDNESDAY, a Palmino League game with Waterford was suspended after nine innings with the score tied 7-7. The game will be concluded on Wednesday, July 13, at Waterford.

Seth Petty was on the mound for NFWB, having pitched two hitless innings. Mike Pritchell started and was relieved by Derek DiPaola, who pitched 6 1/3 strong innings.

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S. Farmington fends off challenge in Mack play

South Farmington knocked off one of its key challengers in the Little Caesars Connie Mack League, battling from behind to defeat Huron Valley 8-4 Thursday.

South Farmington, 7-0, shares first place with West Bloomfield. Huron Valley, 5-3, went into the game tied with Windsor for third place.

South trailed 4-0 before closing the gap to 4-3 in the bottom of the fourth and winning it with a five-run fifth inning.

Jeff Skinner, who was 2-for-3 with four RBI, boomed a bases-loaded triple in the fifth and had an RBI fielder's choice in the fourth.

Joe Whitefoot drove in the tying run with a single in the fifth, and Bill Bertera capped the scoring with another RBI single.

WHITEFOOT AND Bertera, both of whom had two hits and two RBI, got the South offense rolling with RBI singles in the fourth, also.

Jason Hicks was the winner in relief of starter Dave Skown. Hicks

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threw 3 1/2 innings of hitless ball, striking out six and walking one. He allowed three hits.

Skown was touched for six hits and four runs in the first 3 1/2 innings.

On Tuesday, South Farmington traveled to Canada and had an 8-4 victory over Windsor to claim in customs on the way back.

South broke a 1-1 tie in the fifth, Leo Devine scoring the go-ahead run when the opposing pitcher, attempting a pickoff at second base, threw the ball into center field.

Rob MacDonald was 2-for-4 with two RBI, and Whitefoot had an RBI single and a sacrifice fly.

STARTING PITCHER Mike Dorcak, 1-0, went 4 1/2 innings for the win. He gave up nine hits, including four in a row in the fifth, but limited

the damage by walking only one. He had three strikeouts.

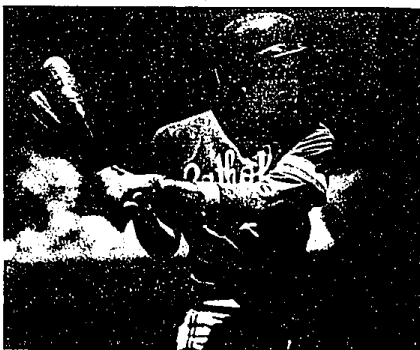
Craig Murray, who has been strong in relief for South, worked the final 1 1/2 innings. He entered with one out in the fifth, the bases loaded and South holding a 4-3 lead. Murray got out of it with a popup and a strikeout.

In three relief appearances totaling 5 1/2 innings, Murray has picked up as many saves, struck out 11 and allowed only two hits.

In a game played Saturday, June 18, South Farmington blanked Westland 9-0 as Joe Jentzer raised his pitching record to 2-0 with a four-hitter. He fanned seven and walked one.

MacDonald, who was hitting .583 going into Thursday's game, was 2-for-3, including a two-run double, and had three RBI.

Bertera and Dorcak also were 2-for-3 and scored three and two runs, respectively. Scott Wladishkin, the leadoff hitter who boasted a .688 batting average, was 2-for-2 and scored two runs.



JOHN STORMZAND/staff photographer

Kevin Rogers of Catholic Central takes some practice swings before going up to bat in the all-star baseball game at Tiger Stadium.

Salem's Marion shines as pitcher

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Todd Marion is more accustomed to watching other players pitch from the mound at Tiger Stadium.

The Plymouth Salem baseball star has seen that background view from the center-fielder's camera countless times during telecasts of Detroit Tigers games.

In Thursday's annual high school all-star contest, however, Marion was the man standing on top of pitcher's mound.

The University of Michigan recruit pitched two perfect innings in relief, but he was unable to affect the outcome.

Marion was called on to work the eighth and ninth innings after the West All-Stars (the team represent-

baseball

ing the out-state area) scored seven runs in the seventh and beat the East (the team made up of city and suburban players) 8-4.

"IT WAS WEIRD out there with the familiar stands, the seats, behind home plate," said Marion, who was joined on the East squad by Redford Catholic Central infielder Kevin Rogers. "I felt like I was on TV. It was an experience."

Marion, who made his Tiger Stadium pitching debut, would have im-

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