

Missy Bako
Garden CityGretchen Hudson
Plymouth CantonAri Ault
Farmington HarrisonKatie Devereux
North Farmington

1998 All-Area Softball Team

Annie Bolognino
Livonia LadywoodStefanie Volpe
Plymouth SalemLiz Elsner
Plymouth CantonKacie Mathena
Redford Union

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doubles among her 42 hits. Ault also stole 27 bases and scored 25 runs.

Ault became a catcher when Harrison coach Mike Teachman started working with her twin sister and Harrison pitcher, Ari, five summers ago.

"I said to her dad 'Why don't you bring Ari along, and maybe we can interest her in catching?' Teachman said, 'I guess she got interested.'

"She can hit for power and average, run, field and throw; she does everything well. She has tremendous baserunning instincts and is a tremendous competitor. If a coach wanted to find out if he had a decent catcher, he would compare her to Ari Ault. She would be the standard."

Katie Devereux, catcher, North Farm: Devereux was a four-year starter for coach Dave Brubaker's Raiders and a four-time all-Lakes Division selection. Devereux batted a team-best .430 this year and led the Raiders with 31 RBI. Her 39 hits included seven doubles, two triples and one home run. She also scored 20 runs. For her career, she hit .354 with 58 doubles, eight triples and 85 RBI.

Devereux made just four errors and had a .930 fielding percentage. She shared team MVP honors with fellow seniors Livorno, Mickey Spitz and Diana Gustky.

Defensively, she improved every year. Brubaker said, "She had very few passed balls. She was in the 40-percent range at throwing out baserunners, which is a very nice percentage."

"She inherited the four spot (in the lineup) as a freshman and never relinquished that. She produced the big hits when we needed them and was a big RBI person."

Annie Bolognino, catcher, Ladywood: Bolognino made all-region, all-district and all-Catholic after hitting .469 (.38 for-81) with a team-high 23 RBI.

She also had seven doubles and one triple with a .540 on-base percentage. Bolognino struck out just five times.

Defensively, Bolognino had 98 putouts and 20 assists. The three-year starter was an all-league outfielder as a junior. She is headed to play softball next spring at Madonna University.

"Annie is the best catcher I have ever coached, and I believe she will have great success at Madonna," Ladywood coach Bob Lulek said. "Annie has a very good attitude and works very hard."

Stefanie Volpe, catcher, Ply. Salem: Volpe, who will play at the University of Michigan next season, was a four-starter and a Division I all-star.

She batted .471 this year with 40

hits, which included seven doubles and three triples. She had 27 RBI and scored 22 runs.

Volpe holds nearly every Salem career record, too. In four years, she played in 121 games, had 343 at bats and scored 131 runs. She had 30 doubles, 14 triples, 18 home runs and 143 RBI. Her career batting average was .312.

Liz Elsner, first baseman, Canton: Elsner showed the kind of power no previous Canton player possessed, hitting a school-record six home runs.

Five cleared the fence, including one against state champion Waterford Kettering in the Division I semifinals. She batted .423 with 31 RBI, scored 29 runs and stole 20 bases. She is also an academic all-star with a 3.3 GPA.

"She's probably the best power hitter I've had at Canton," Arnold said. "She's always had power but she was scoring the ball better this year, being patient. Teams try to pitch around her, but she has a good eye for the ball."

Kacie Mathena, infielder, Red. Union: A four-year starter, Mathena played her first two years in center field and the last two at shortstop. She even spent time at catcher when the need arose.

She received Mega Conference White Division honors to go with all-district and all-region accolades. She batted .539 with a team-high 48 hits, six doubles, seven triples and two home runs.

Mathena scored 33 runs, drove in 35 and had a .831 slugging percentage. "She's just an outstanding athlete," RU coach Gary DeHochet said. "She can play just about any position except pitcher. She's one of the best athletes I ever coached, and the best part about her is she's just a great person."

Lynn Livorno, infielder, North Farm: Livorno was a four-year starter (at second base) for the Raiders who earned all-Lakes Division honors three times and made the All-WLAA team this year.

She batted .380 with 36 hits, which included seven doubles and two triples. She scored 26 runs and had 13 RBI. She had 137 chances in the field with 79 putouts, 51 assists and seven errors for a .950 percentage. She helped turn several double plays.

Livorno, who will play at Grand Valley next year, ended her career with a .363 batting average, 18 doubles, four triples, 72 runs scored and 43 RBI.

"She's one of the best defensive second basemen I've seen, and her offensive numbers compare with anybody," Brubaker said. "She's just an all-around great kid and team leader. She does it by example and with the enthusiasm

Lynn Livorno
North FarmingtonKelly Moug
Farmington Hills MercyChristie Koester
Redford ThurstonShayla O'Mara
Farmington Hills MercyBecky Vosler
Farmington HarrisonMelissa Brown
Plymouth Canton

you need out there.

She and Sam McComb are the best up-the-middle combination we've had at North, and we've had some good people. Lynn covered the bunt at first base better than anybody."

Kelly Moug, infielder, Mercy: Moug was a four-year starter for the Marlinas, playing first base as a freshman and shortstop the last three seasons.

She hit for a .413 average with 43 hits and a team-best 28 RBI. Her extra-base hit consisted of eight doubles and one triple.

Moug scored 28 runs and had only four strikeouts in 104 chances. She had a .501 fielding percentage. Moug will attend the University of Michigan but is undecided about playing softball.

"She was put in the difficult position of playing as a freshman and has quietly gone out and played her game day in and day out," coach Jack Falvo said. "She has always been the one person on the team that I depended on. Without her, we would not have had the season we had. She's a coach's player."

Christie Koester, outfielder, Thurston: The senior center fielder was a unanimous choice for the Mega Conference Division first team. A four-year varsity starter, she batted .500 (.23-for-46)

with 24 walks and 11 strikeouts. Koester led the Eagles with 30 runs scored and 47 stolen bases in 52 attempts. She had 13 RBI, seven doubles, one triple and three home runs.

"She's probably one of the best all-around athletes in the state, no question about it," Thurston coach Al Nagy said. "She's got power, speed, throwing ability, hustle. You name it."

Shayla O'Mara, outfielder, Mercy: A four-year varsity player and an all-Catholic selection this year, O'Mara provided the power in the Marlinas' lineup.

She had an impressive total of 54 hits, which included seven doubles, nine triples and three home runs. She had 27 RBI and a .454 batting average. Her slugging percentage was .739.

O'Mara walked 16 times, was hit by eight pitches and had 13 strikeouts in 119 at-bats. She also scored 39 runs.

O'Mara played right field most of the time but also did some catching.

ALL-OBSERVER SOFTBALL

1998 ALL-OBSERVER TEAM

Pitchers
Missy Bako, senior, Garden City
Gretchen Hudson, junior, Plymouth Canton
Catcher
Ari Ault, junior, Farmington Harrison

First Base
Katie Devereux, senior, North Farmington
Annie Bolognino, senior, Livonia Ladywood
Stefanie Volpe, senior, Plymouth Salem

Infielders
Liz Elsner, junior, Plymouth Canton
Kacie Mathena, senior, Redford Union
Lynn Livorno, senior, North Farmington
Kelly Moug, senior, Farm. Hills Mercy

Outfielders
Christie Koester, senior, Redford Thurston
Shayla O'Mara, senior, Farm. Hills Mercy
Becky Vosler, senior, Farmington Harrison
Melissa Brown, junior, Plymouth Canton

ALL-AREA SECOND TEAM

Pitchers
Lori Jendruck, senior, Livonia Franklin
Ari Ault, junior, Farmington Harrison
Adrienne Doyle, junior, Livonia Churchill
Melissa Myrty, junior, Farmington Hills Mercy

Infielders
Kelly Spitz, senior, North Farmington
Terri Schroeder, senior, Farm. Hills Mercy
Catcher
Kirsten Denwick, junior, Livonia Churchill

Outfielders
Samantha McComb, freshman, N. Farm.
Sarah Tabor, junior, Garden City
Paula McKernan, sophomore, Ply. Canton

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Canton: Erica Hancz, Sara Freels, Christina Kessel; Salem: Becky Epler, Karen Prosky; Farmington: Kristin Brown, Kelly DePutter, Angie Luttman, Tricia Kravus; Marlinas: Katina Viteria, Britany Massey, Lindsey Emmert; North Farmington: Daria Guskley, Kristy King, Lauren Ouellette, Randi Taub; Mercy: Beth Ann Nowak, Erin Carson, Dana Falvo, Katie Hansen, Paige Even, Len Moeller; Thurston: Lysandra Schraufnagel, Katie King; Churchill: Sarah Gelles, Christine Fones, Jenny Stralko; John Glenn: Katie Foran, Megan Brady, Nikki Reisinger; Wayne: Kristin Bull, Angie Hill, Sarah Moore; Livorno: Westland: Stephanie Lynch, Jenny Schmitt, Liz Unger, Sharon Greer; Claremont: Rachel Sundberg, Jenny Decalar; Garden City: Kelly Spitzer, Tiffany Bako, Danielle Blesac; Thurston: Julie Stoll, Stephanie Montanaro, Sarah Putnam, Anne Marie Carter; Redford Union: Debbie Christensen, St. Agathe: Katie Miller, Jennifer Moode.

"She was the player who put us over the top this year," Falvo said. "She had the power and she could produce; she intimidated pitchers and gained the respect of opposing coaches."

"She provided that one big bat, and you never knew when it was going to explode. Defensively, she had the strongest arm of anyone I've seen in the area."

Becky Vosler, outfielder, Harrison: Vosler was a standout at the plate and also with the glove in right field where she started for two years.

Vosler batted .368 with six doubles, five triples and a home run among her 43 hits. She had 31 RBI and scored 26 runs. Her slugging percentage was a solid .530.

Defensively, few balls hit to right field were ever guaranteed hits with Vosler patrolling the territory. She threw out 17 runners at first base, four at home plate and one at second base.

"The thing that improved on was let-

ting her ability go to the limit and not playing conservatively," Teachman said. "She was a tremendous defensive player for us."

"She's a great baserunner and hits with power. This year I toyed with the idea of shortening her swing to cut down on strikeouts, but I knew we needed the big hit. She'll fight a pitcher to get it. She had great hits in sixth and seventh innings."

Melissa Brown, outfielder, Canton: A junior and a two-year starter, Brown hit .325 with 21 runs scored, 14 RBI and a team-high 30 stolen bases.

Her quickness allowed her to record 35 putouts and 10 assists from center field. She committed three errors for a .538 fielding percentage.

"Brown is a team leader, very vocal, knows her position," Arnold said. "She has great range in the outfield. She does some things that are unbelievable. She puts the ball in play when at bat; she's just an excellent softball player."

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68 Taz, Scooby, Scooby, Scooby, Scooby
69 1100-1110 McDonalds, Scooby, Scooby, Scooby, Scooby
70 1120 Scooby, Scooby, Scooby, Scooby, Scooby
71 1130 Scooby, Scooby, Scooby, Scooby, Scooby
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