

All-Observer

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Eagles played flawlessly in the field and came through with clutch hits.

Majeski finished his career with a 477-291 overall record. Three of the last four years Majeski's teams have advanced at least as far as the state quarterfinal round.

Majeski guided Thurston to a Class B state championship in '84 and he's happy he could take another team back to the Final Four.

"I'm happy for the team," he said after the quarterfinal victory. "This is a great bunch of guys. I've been there but I'm happy to see them get the chance."

Adding to Redford's claim to being Baseball Town, Redford St. Agatha won a Division IV district before being eliminated in the regional semifinal.

Farmington Harrison won a district in Division II; Livonia Stevenson and Churchill won in Division I, and Clarenceville won in Division III.

It was Churchill's first district championship in 22 years.

Following is a profile of each player on the All-Observer first team, as selected by the Observer sports staff.

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Anthony Tomey, senior, Redford CC: The right-handed pitcher/designated hitter could have been a candidate to win the Shamrocks' Most Valuable and Most Improved player honors.

After a so-so junior year in which he suffered from control problems on the mound, Tomey became the state's top hurler as a senior. He won 11 of his 12 decisions and also picked up a save, allowing 44 hits and 40 walks with a team-high 128 strikeouts in 79.1 innings pitched.

His earned run average was 1.670 and he also was dangerous as a designated hitter/leftfielder. He batted .404 (38-for-94) with four home runs and 43 hits, which ranked third on the team, in the No. 5 spot in the order.

Tomey, an Eastern Michigan signee, was still considering an offer to sign a professional contract with the Cleveland Indians last week. He was taken in the 23rd round of the recent Major League draft.

"The coaches didn't have to say much to Anthony, he's a vocal leader," Salter said. "His confidence was as much better this year from having a successful summer and fall. He was determined to have a great year."

Joel Halliday, senior, Redford Union: Halliday, a three-year varsity member, finished second in RU career pitching victories with 22, seven shy of the record set by 1995 graduate Brian Berryman.

Halliday, a Madonna University signee who pitched three scoreless innings in the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Game, finished with a 9-2 record. He allowed 16 earned runs in 63 innings pitched this year, striking out 84 with 24 walks.

Halliday also batted .348 (31-for-89) with seven doubles, two homers and 24 RBI.

He showed his versatility as a position player, starting at three different positions in his career. He was a first baseman as a sophomore, a second baseman as a junior and centerfielder as a senior.

"Joel had a tremendous pitching career," said RU coach Rick Berryman, also praising his versatility. "He improved tremendously, was one of those kids that got consistently better, turned himself from an average high school pitcher to a college prospect. We needed a dependable centerfielder this year, plus it was better for his arm not playing second base where he would have had to turn the double play a lot in games and in practice."

Matt Rigley, senior, Redford Union: Berryman said Rigley, a three-year varsity starter, can be counted among the top three players at his position in RU history. With Mike Stefanek and Bill Fealy being the others it's definitely good company. Fealy had a major league career and Stefanek has played as high as Triple A in the minor leagues.

Rigley, a Grand Valley State signee, batted .526 to set a new school single-season record. He had a single-season record 13 doubles and a career-high nine homers. He drove in 44 runs and also led the Panthers with 50 hits, carrying an eye-popping .660 slugging average.

Rigley had a career batting average of .435 and was one of the best defensive catchers around. He picked off four runners leaning too far off first base and only two runners stole bases off him this year. Only a handful even attempted, which shows the respect opposing teams showed for his arm.

"Grand Valley got a huge steal," Berryman said. "What he's done to turn into a power hitter is amazing and (assistant coach) Shawn McGowan deserves all the credit. Rigley still doesn't know the power he's got. He's going to be a long ball hitter."

Chris Woodruff, senior, Redford CC: Shedding 30 pounds in the off-season helped Woodruff become just as effective behind the plate as he was in the batter's box for the Shamrocks.

He batted .422 (45-109), and though he only hit one homer, he drove in 40 runs, which ranked fourth on the team.

Woodruff was aggressive to the point that he took a pitch that had bounced to the plate in the throat in the Division I quarterfinal win over Brighton. He stayed in the game after receiving medical attention.

"He was very solid defensively, especially the last three weeks when I don't think a ball got past him," Salter said. "He was a good clutch hitter. He got more serious about playing in college and knew if his weight was down he'd have a better chance."

Joe Madigan, senior, Thurston: A catcher, Madigan hit for power and average. He batted .379 (33-87) with seven homers, 36 runs scored and 38 RBI. He had seven doubles, one triple and 15 walks.

His three-run homer gave the Eagles a comfortable lead against Harper Woods Notre Dame in the Division II quarter-

NAME	TEAM	POS.	YEAR	AVG.	HITS	HR.	RBI.	SB.	BB.	K.	SLUG.	OPS.
Anthony Tomey	Redford CC	P/DH	SR	.404	38	4	43	0	128	79	1.670	.878
Joel Halliday	Redford Union	P	SR	.348	31	2	24	0	84	24	1.000	.848
Matt Rigley	Redford Union	C	SR	.526	44	9	44	0	50	13	.660	.891
Chris Woodruff	Redford CC	C	SR	.422	45	1	40	0	0	0	.435	.857
Joe Madigan	Thurston	C	SR	.379	33	7	38	0	15	0	.526	.805
Bob Malek	Catholic Central	C	SR	.350	28	1	20	0	10	0	.450	.800
Robby Hudson	Garden City	C	SR	.300	20	0	15	0	5	0	.350	.650
Mike Macok	Redford Union	C	SR	.250	15	0	10	0	0	0	.300	.550
Dale Hayes	Westland John Glenn	C	SR	.200	10	0	5	0	0	0	.250	.450
Emil Majeski	Thurston	C	SR	.150	5	0	0	0	0	0	.200	.350
John Salter	CC	C	SR	.100	0	0	0	0	0	0	.150	.250

nel, won by Thurston, 7-3. Madigan is a great success story. He was a backup catcher until taking over the starting job late in his junior year.

He caught every inning of every game this year.

"He's a workhorse," Majeski said. "He had some key hits in games. He's a real intelligent kid (scored 28 on American College Test), always a very good team player."

Casey Rogowski, senior, Redford CC: Rogowski capped his high school career with the Mr. Baseball award, given to the state's top senior, and it's easy to see why.

A big target at first base, the three-year varsity starter hit .491 (53-108) and had an on-base percentage of .652

as the Shamrocks' cleanup hitter.

He had 13 homers, which was one behind team leader Bob Malek, and a team-high 65 RBI. Rogowski also contributed nine doubles and one triple and struck out only 12 times, finishing with a slugging percentage of .898.

All that is impressive but his hustle to beat a throw to first base in the seventh inning of the Division I state championship against Troy showed more value, Salter said.

"He has great talent and is a quiet leader," Salter said. "In the championship game if he didn't bust his butt to get to first base (with a head first slide) we would have gone to extra innings."

Please see ALL-OBSERVER, C6

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