



Simply super!

McGovern tops All-Area unit

By Jim Hughes
staff writer

Somewhere between All-Area and All-World, there's the definitive designation for Birmingham Groves graduate Colleen McGovern.

Tuesday, the Michigan High School Softball Coaches' Association — in its first year of existence — found that happy medium. It made McGovern a



Dave Marr
coach of the year

unanimous choice on its first Class A All-State softball team.

McGovern, who's headed to Michigan State University this fall on a full softball scholarship, also was a unanimous choice on the Observer & Eccentric All-Area squad when a group of area high-school softball coaches voted her to the first team along with 11 other senior standouts. Athens players Lori Moehring and Angela Vos also were voted unanimously to the All-Area first team.

McGovern, a three-year varsity performer for coach Steve Crane's Metro Suburban Activities Association champion Falcons, racked up some enviable numbers this spring. She posted a 19-4 overall record, including a perfect 10-0 league ledger.

McGovern WAS a power pitcher with uncanny accuracy. Her bread and butter was the fastball, and her pitching strategy was simple: Smoke 'em low. She struck out 205 batters in 157½ innings pitched and walked just 60. She struck out 18 of 22 batters against Southfield and struck out 15 batters in a five-inning mercy-terminated game against Detroit Mumford.

McGovern, who pitched one perfect game, two no-hitters, three one-hitters, two two-hitters and three three-hitters, had an earned run average of 1.33. The all-league, all-county selection was the recipient of the Groves' Most Outstanding Female Athlete Award and was named the

MVP on the softball team two years in a row.

A three-sport varsity MVP (swimming, volleyball and softball) and two-sport all-state selection (swimming and softball), McGovern showed her versatility with some equally impressive offensive stats. She hit .352 this spring and led the team with the highest on-base percentage (.53).

"Colleen McGovern, among all of the many outstanding athletes I've coached and been associated with, is undoubtedly the very best," Crane praised. She is the entire franchise. Super. She's a real nice kid. She's going places."

MOEHRING, WHO pitched in the same league as McGovern, also compiled some impressive statistics. Moehring was similar to McGovern — she did not walk many batters but different in that she did not overpower hitters.

Speed didn't matter to Moehring, who Crane labeled "sneaky quick." The Athens senior racked up a 20-5 record with an earned run average of 1.01. She struck out 136 batters and walked 33 in 159½ innings pitched. She opened the season with a perfect game victory over Rochester. She also threw another no-hitter during the season.

With Moehring on the mound, the Red Hawks had their best season ever with 23 wins against seven losses. Athens finished second to Groves in the MSAA with an 8-2 record.

Offensively, Moehring supplied some spark with a .368 batting average along with 22 runs batted in.

"Lori was a tremendous player for us this year," Athens coach Dave Marr said, "and one of the main reasons we were 23-7. Nobody worked harder than Lori. Everything she got, she worked for. We're going to miss her."

VOS, ANOTHER senior standout for Athens, was a clutch player throughout the season. She belted three grand-slam home runs — all in the bottom of the seventh inning which won ballgames.

She made honorable mention on the Class A all-state team after hitting .448 and driving home 45 runs. The all-league center fielder committed only one error all year and made 45 putouts with five assists.

"You talk about a clutch hitter and you're talking about Angela," Marr said. "She knew how to win a ballgame. And she knew how to keep you in a game with her glove."

SARA ROBINSON, an all-league second baseman from Groves, led the team in batting with a .359 average and was on base 47 percent of the time.

She played most of the season with a broken finger and had an .862 fielding average. She broke her finger in the third game of the year and again the second to last game of the year.

"Sara is a solid and steady performer who possesses that rare combination of poise, savvy, determination and courage beyond measure. In every aspect, Sara is a winner," Crane said.

WEST BLOOMFIELD enjoyed a successful softball season as Bill Ma-

son's Lakers posted a 24-5 record and won the Greater Oakland Activities League title with a 10-0 mark.

Two of the reasons for the success of the team were Jana Baringer and Becky Pointer, both all-league selections.

Baringer, a senior shortstop who was named to the Class A all-region team, had tremendous range and a rifle arm. A four-year varsity player, Baringer hit .326 this past spring with 33 runs batted in. Her on-base percentage was .514.

Baringer, who plans to play next year at Wayne State University, was named the Most Outstanding Female Athlete at West Bloomfield.

Pointer, a senior catcher for the Lakers, was the defensive leader on the squad, according to Mason. Pointer hit the ball at a .347 pace and reached base 46 percent of the time.

PATTY BARRETT, a senior infielder from Bloomfield Hills Andover, hit the ball at a hefty .471 clip with six home runs and 25 runs batted in. She also ripped five two-base hits.

Barrett batted up her average when she hit safely 14 times in 18 trips to the plate — including a 10-for-10 spree.

Barrett also was handy with the glove, posting a .959 fielding average. She plans to play volleyball at Hillsdale College.

BRIGID LYNCH, an all-Catholic Central Division player at Birmingham Marian, was a third baseman who coach Joan Shearer called "our best defensive player."

Lynch was on base 48 percent of the time and hit at a .295 clip. She had 19 putouts at the hot corner and 48 assists. She captained the Marian team last spring.

DIANA REINLEIN, who earned the All-Area designation during the winter as a volleyball player, was a three-year performer for Southfield-Lathrup coach Don Perry and the team's MVP this season.

Reinlein, a center fielder, batted .435. The opportunistic player scored at least one run in 23 of 58 games.

"Diane was the best athlete I've ever worked with — boy or girl," Perry said of the Class A all-regional selection.

SUE SUDIA, a senior third-sacker for Rochester Adams, carried a .375 batting average with 19 hits.

She always found a way to get into scoring position, crossing the plate 30 times. Sudia had 21 walks and 21 stolen bases.

"She could make things happen offensively, and she was an excellent third baseman," Adams coach Cathy Taylor said.

TAMMY MORGAN, a senior left fielder for coach Jerry Dolan's Southfield team, was the key figure on the Blue Jays' offense.

The two-year starter posted a .489 batting average, drove home 18 runs and blasted three home runs. She also drew 11 bases on balls.

"She was basically my whole offense," Dolan said.



Birmingham Groves pitcher Colleen McGovern mows 'em down in a game during the regular season.