

Thursday, June 30, 1983 O&amp;E

## Southfield, Troy areas dominate in girls' softball

By Marty Budner  
staff writer

The Southfield and Troy areas seemed to be the major markets for girls' softball players this spring.

Those growing Oakland County cities produced eight of the 13 players who made the 1983 Observer & Eccentric All-Area Girls' Softball team. Even the coach of the year, Don Perry — a representative of Southfield-Lathrup — is a representative of Southfield-Lathrup.

The team, recently picked by a group of area coaches, is dominated by veteran senior players. The City of Southfield's representatives are Kim Kersten and Karen Hunt from Lathrup High School and Linda Mitchell and Patty Proctor of Southfield High School.

The City of Troy's players include Jackie Moore and Kristi Sparks of Athens and Julie Neumann and Tracy Johnson of Troy. The other first-team players include Jackie Kaczmarek (Bloomfield Hills Andover), Kristy Thomas (Rochester), Jenny Loomis (Birmingham Seabolt), Lori Sexton (Birmingham Groves) and Amy Austin (North Farmington).

Following is a brief profile of each first-team player.

**Julie Neumann:** Neumann, primarily a third baseman, was Troy's "best all-around player and toughest out," according to coach Bob Jurakovac. The three-year Colt starter had five game-winning hits this season. She was team captain and batted .458 with 27 RBI.

**Tracy Johnson:** A three-year veteran, Johnson had a .650 on-base percentage as Troy's lead-off batter. The senior left fielder compiled a .343 batting average and had 23 RBI.

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photo by JERRY ZOLYNSKI

Kim Kersten was one of four returning starters who helped lead Southfield-Lathrup to a fine 19-11 record this spring.



Jenny Loomis  
Seabolt



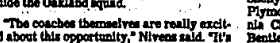
Kristi Sparks  
Athens



Julie Neumann  
Troy



Lori Sexton  
Groves



Tracy Johnson  
Troy

## all-area girls softball

### FIRST TEAM

PLAYER	SCHOOL	YEAR
Julie Neumann	Troy	Sr.
Tracy Johnson	Troy	Sr.
Jackie Moore	Athens	Sr.
Kristi Sparks	Athens	Jr.
Linda Mitchell	Southfield	Sr.
Patty Proctor	Southfield	Sr.
Kim Kersten	Lathrup	Sr.
Karen Hunt	Lathrup	Sr.
Jackie Kaczmarek	Andover	Sr.
Kristy Thomas	Rochester	Sr.
Jenny Loomis	Seabolt	Sr.
Lori Sexton	Groves	Sr.
Amy Austin	North Farmington	Jr.

Don Perry Lathrup Coach

**SECOND TEAM** — Karen Bleske, Donna Wheeler, Troy Athens; Marianne Cline, Amy Cornwell, Southfield-Lathrup; Shelly Scott, Rochester; Carol Snyder, Southfield-Christian; Beth Bray, Birmingham Groves; Dawn Lukowski, Farmington Harrison; Terri Mettle, Troy; Beth Sleep, Renee Guadagni, Southfield; Sue Culver, North Farmington; Pam Egan, Birmingham Groves.

**HONORABLE MENTION** — Debbie Devine, Troy; Holly Chaiker, Troy Athens; Maria Rabara, Laurie Silverman, Southfield; Margie Lee, Michelle Rosen, North Farmington; Andrea Zager, Southfield-Lathrup; Karen Hall, Beth Berlin, Bloomfield Hills Andover; Veronica Storbeck, Bloomfield Hills Lathrup; Holly Carwell, Auburn Heights Avondale; Renee Core, Birmingham Seabolt; Eileen McClellan, Rochester Adams; Cheryl Blonde, Heather Ramsey, West Bloomfield.

## Drug-induced jocks: an awful, sad waste

Who feels sorry for Steve Howe?

You know the story. Howe, former University of Michigan All-American pitcher who went on to be the ace of the Los Angeles Dodgers' bullpen, has admitted to substance abuse problems last year and again this season.

Here's a guy who seemingly has everything going for him. Professionally, he's rated as one of the best left-handed relief pitchers in the game. Before he re-entered an Arizona rehabilitation program earlier this season, he had a 2-1 record, with seven saves. He had not given up an earned run in 22 1/2 innings.

He's young, handsome, and wealthy. He's got a beautiful wife and a newborn child. He lives in a large, luxurious Los Angeles home. What else could the guy want?

BUT HOWE, like the characters in John O'Hara's fiction who fail to realize all they've been blessed with and eventually self-destruct, took a shine to cocaine — the drug has devastated him.

Most people react with pity and sympathy when confronted with Howe's story. "Oh, isn't it awful," is a typical reaction.

My reaction is different. Instead of saying, "What a pity," I say, "What a waste."

Howe's story is certainly not unique. Athletes-on-drugs stories have been appearing on sports pages across the country with alarming frequency lately. Few sports have been spared.

In football, we've had the Dan Reese, Randy Crowder, George Rogers and Mercury Morris stories. In baseball, besides Howe, we've had Tim Lincecum, Lonnie Smith, Bob Welch, Dickie Noles and others. In basketball, David Thompson, Terry Furrow, Quinton Daily, Marvin Barnes, and John Lucas, just to name a few.

If it were just these individuals who were being hurt by the pervasiveness of drug and alcohol abuse in professional sports, there would be limited cause for alarm. As it is, the integrity of sports is jeopardized.

Worse, these athletes, whether they like it or not, are role models for kids. It is this concern that makes me hard-pressed to pity the drug-induced athlete.

"WHEN YOUNG people see something like that (a substance abuse problem) happening to someone they look up to, I think it's a big disappointment to them," said Jerry Tobias, a youth officer with the Berkeley Police Department who counsels youngsters throughout the greater Southfield area.

Tobias and others, like Dr. Suzanne Parker, physician-in-charge of psychiatrics, and Janice Cotter-Leacock, adolescent specialist, both from Henry Ford Hospital's Maple Grove Center in West Bloomfield, say it is difficult to determine the exact effect athletes on drugs have on kids.

"To be honest, most of the teen-agers who come here don't talk about the athletes," said Cotter-Leacock who helps youngsters overcome substance abuse problems. "They are, however, very much into blaming. They blame their parents, society, billboards who play up drugs and alcohol — they'll blame anything and everything but themselves for their problems."

"I think that kids — the jocks — those involved in sports, feel alcohol is OK for the jock. Where they're getting it from is the media. Football players drink like beer and have gorgeous chicks around all the time. People are being stereotyped by the beer they drink."

Cotter-Leacock sees some of the athletes-on-



Chris McCosky

drugs stories as having a positive effect on youngsters. She said the Bob Welch and Steve Howe stories have shown kids the bad side of drugs.

"THERE IS nothing glamorous about an athlete seeking substance abuse help. A teen who sees that says, 'Hey, I don't want those problems.' It's important that the teen know the good and bad about getting high. They need to be told that getting high is a good feeling. They also need to see the other side, the abuse. They have to be shown what happens when the good feeling turns bad," she said.

Parker, who deals more with the athletes themselves, believes that the number of athletes admitting their drug problems is a positive sign for kids.

"Drugs and alcohol have always been around sports. It's part of being a jock. But I think kids do respect the openness of the athletes who admit their problems. There is a certain glamour to being straight," she said.

Fortunately, there hasn't been a widespread substance abuse problem in our service area — a few isolated incidents, mostly involving alcohol — but nothing real serious. That doesn't mean that area schools are not conscious of the potential for such a problem.

"I haven't seen any use of drugs in our program," said new Farmington Athletic Director Ron Holland, who has been involved in high school sports for a quarter of a century. "But you read about it, and you say, 'Gee, it happened there. It's possible it could happen here.' You are concerned."

"WE ARE very aware of the problem. The football coaches' manual reminds us to be aware of abuse problems. You think about having coaches seminars dealing with it, but no one really considers it a problem," Holland said.

But isn't society being too easy on these athletes? If you or I had a drug problem, would we get the same treatment the athletes get? Would we be able, like Steve Howe, to admit to abusing cocaine and get off without criminal punishment?

Tobias said, "If they're in the headlines, there is a tendency to be more lenient. If someone is arrested on a drug charge — say he's a first offender — as long as that person is not selling or distributing, we'll try to help. If they're selling we prosecute. If a person is booked or in, the courts will try to put them into some type of program. We won't let them off the hook, but if they try to help themselves we'll try to help them."

"The courts provide a kind of therapy for the athletes and for others," Tobias continued. "When they have to face the reality of incarceration or a heavy fine — that's therapy."

Tobias then, in two paragraphs, expressed precisely my opinion on the matter:

"I think you are doing a disservice to (the drug abuser) if you continually let them off. I think many times the person expects something to be done to them. They are asking to be punished."

"And it's also a disservice to the kids if we coddle the athlete or public figure. We are not being fair to young people."

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## O&E sponsors All-Star soccer

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, in cooperation with Livonia Schools, will sponsor the Prep Girls' Soccer Classic 11:30 a.m. July 9 at Livonia Stevenson.

The event will pit members of O&E's All-Area players from Wayne County against Oakland County. Nooreen Divens, coach of the state champions from Stevenson, will direct the Wayne team, while Mike Ruddy, coach of regional champion Troy High, will guide the Oakland squad.

"The coaches themselves are really excited about this opportunity," Divens said. "It's

the first time — to my knowledge — anything like this has been done.

"It shows the growth and interest in soccer in this and other communities. I think it will help to recognize the sport and show that soccer is here to stay."

Included among the list of players from Wayne County are first-teamers Lisa Brocardi and Andrea Bokos of Stevenson, Shelly Staszal and Colleen O'Connor from Plymouth Salem, Doreen Dudek from Livonia Churchill, Lisa Rigstad from Livonia Bentley and Karen Fels from Garden City.

First-team players from Oakland County will be Renee Eckholt from Troy Athens, Debbie Wolzatzek from Birmingham Marian, Lisa Leonard from Bloomfield Hills Lathrup, Beth Porterfield from Birmingham Groves, Lisa Suttle from Troy, Karen Bednark from West Bloomfield and Sue Ferguson from Farmington Harrison.

Tickets, priced at \$1, are available at the Livonia Observer and Birmingham Eccentric offices, and will be sold at the gate on game day. Stevenson High School is at 35500 W. Six Mile, west of Farmington Road.