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at Wayne Memorial and the other fine seasons we had in the area from teams like Farmington Harrison, Catholic Central, (Westland) John Glenn, Farmington, said Weingarden, who was ably assisted this season by Anthony Holyzko and Mike Dominick.

This year's All-Observer squad features several familiar names including Drew Stanton, Harrison; Brandon Aljourny, John Glenn; Ryan Rogowski, Redford CC; James Melvin, Redford Thurston; and Tony Luttman, Farmington.

Introducing the 2002 All-Observer baseball squad as selected by the sports staff with input from area coaches:

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Billy Rabe, Stevenson: The senior right-hander had an astounding season on the mound with a 12-3 record, one save and an 1.74 earned run average.

In 36 appearances he threw 12 complete games. He struck out 97 batters in 96.2 innings en route to All-WLAA Lakes Activities Association and second team Division I all-state honors.

Rabe holds school records for innings pitched and wins in a season.

"Billy took the field totally focused and driven to take his team to the state championship," Weingarden said.

"He was absolutely a workhorse on the mound. He would throw a complete game on Friday and come back Monday and throw another."

"He was the reason for our tournament success."

Jimmy Barter, Wayne: The crafty senior left-hander was the Zebra's ace, going 7-1 this season with an 0.84 earned run average.

The All-Metro White Division selection pitched 58.1 innings, fanning 55 and walking only two.

Barter also played first base for Wayne, hitting .292, as the Zebra's captured MGA White and district crowns.

"Jimmy was a clutch player who brought the team to another level," Wayne coach Tom Wakefield said. "He was a true competitor and accelerated under pressure. We called him the 'Ice Man' the way he came through."

"He was not a threat last year, but then he became almost unhittable this season."

Jason Christopoulos, Stevenson: The senior catcher batted .368 with 39 hits, including five homers, two triples and seven doubles.

The All-WLAA and all-region pick knocked in 32 runs with a .613 slugging percentage. He is third all-time in career hits at Stevenson. Defensively, Christopoulos also excelled, throwing out 17 of 31 base stealers.

"Jason developed into a fine catcher," Weingarden said. "He has a rifle for an arm."

"Offensively, he came through in the clutch with late-inning home runs against Glenn, Churchill and Garden City. He timed himself into an all-around player."

Mark Hanson, Canton: The senior, headed to Michigan State as a walk-on, led the Chiefs offensively and defensively this season.

ALL-OBSERVER BASEBALL

2002 ALL-OBSERVER BASEBALL FIRST TEAM

P: Billy Rabe, sr., Livonia Stevenson
P: Jimmy Barter, sr., Wayne Memorial
C: Jason Christopoulos, sr., Liv. Stevenson
1B: Mark Hanson, sr., Plymouth Canton
2B: Eric Vojtkofsky, sr., Catholic Central
3B: Brandon Aljourny, sr., John Glenn
RF: James Melvin, sr., Redford Thurston
RF: Ryan Rogowski, sr., Farm. Harrison
RF: Brandon Aljourny, sr., John Glenn
INF: Matt Humenay, sr., Livonia Churchill
OF: Tony Luttman, sr., Farmington
OF: Preston Picard, sr., Farmington
OF: Ryan Rogowski, sr., Plymouth Canton
OF: Nick Musselman, sr., Plymouth Canton
DH: Kevin Zerbo, jr., Farmington Harrison

SECOND TEAM

P: Will Kannon, jr., John Glenn
P: Rob Whipple, sr., Farm. Harrison
C: Josh Anthony, sr., Plymouth Agape
C: Brian Cammave, sr., Plymouth Christian
1B: Bob Houshins, sr., Farmington
2B: Dave Madigan, sr., Redford Thurston
3B: Joe Kondek, sr., Plymouth Canton
RF: Ryan Rogowski, sr., Farm. Harrison
RF: Ricky Vernile, sr., John Glenn
INF: Bryan Smith, jr., North Farmington
INF: Shawn Antist, sr., Redford Thurston
OF: Andrew Caldwell, sr., Wayne Memorial

OF: Bill Marsack, sr., Livonia Stevenson COACH OF THE YEAR Harv Weingarden, Livonia Stevenson

HONORABLE MENTION

Stevenson: Brian Shekel, Aaron Marx; Churchill: Joe Thomas; Franklin: Mike Bugnelli, Jason Rowe, Jamie Fry; Canton: Matt Steier, Matt Kay, Andy Howard, Carl McDewitt; Salem: Steve Cox, Neil Kowalik, Drew Paring; MGA Agape: Farmington: Jim DePaulis, Chris Chesney; Joe James; Harrison: Jake Gannon, Greg Hocking, Nick Vitvits; Andy Wright, Bill Richardson, Mike Sachs, Danny Dolg; M. Farmington: Justin Prinstein, Jason Berthiaume; John Glenn: Kyle Rurkowski, Craig Lewis, Will Massey; Wayne: Marc Townsend, Chris Judd; Lutheran Westland: Rob Siedler, Ryan Walbr, Matt Noller; Redford St. Agatha: Dan Dauter; Catholic Central: Ryan Gallagher, Jeff Niemiec, Jeff Schultz; Garden City: Billy Coyle, Mike Harding, Dan Graham; Redford Union: John Hageman, Shawn Meyers, Matt Thielmann; Redford Thurston: Keith Ablett, Kevin McManis, Tim Parks; Livonia: Charles Bolander, Adam Carpenter, Josh Young; Plymouth Christian: Mark Erickson, Clay Walton; Agape: Paul Antlemer; Westland Huron Valley Lutheran: Josh Dorow, Dave Anderson.

The Division I second team all-star and All-WLAA selection batted .460 with six homers and 25 RBI.

On the mound, he went 5-3 with a 1.75 ERA, including a one-hitter against Walpole Lake Western and a two-hitter against WLAA champion Farmington Harrison.

"I think Mark is one of the best players in the metro area, and that is why he was selected to the all-star game," Canton coach Scott Dickey said. "He was also one of the best in the area defensively and proved himself offensively."

Eric Vojtkofsky, Redford CC: On an all-area team that has 13 seniors out of 15 spots, a freshman certainly stands out on the list. This list isn't the only place that CC freshman Eric Vojtkofsky stood out in 2002.

Vojtkofsky had a marvelous debut for the Shamrocks, leading the team with a .432 batting average, 41 hits, 38 RBI and eight home runs.

He split time between catcher and first base, and he was named All-Catholic in his first year. He also committed only one error in the field.

"I really like his poise as an athlete, not just as a freshman," CC coach John Salter said. "He matured very early and he has excellent size."

"He became more vocal the second half of the season, and you need your catcher to be the leader on the field. He will become that for us."

Brent Habitz, Lutheran Westland: The 6-foot-4, 195-pound senior made the Division IV all-state first team as he led the Warriors in just about every category.

He batted .415 with one homer, 11 doubles and 20 RBI. He had a slugging percentage of .573 and an on-base average of .509.

The All-Metro Conference and all-region pick also threw 64.1 innings, going 5-4 with a 2.39 earned run average. He

struck out 60 and walked 28.

The school's valetider who is headed to Michigan also made Division IV all-academic first team.

"It was a perfect culmination to a career as a four-year starter," Lutheran Westland coach Ted Youngles said. "He's the hardest working kid I've ever coached. He always wanted extra practice. Just a super kid."

James Melvin, Thurston: It says a lot about a batter that he could go 2-for-4 in a game and actually see his batting average drop.

That was the case for senior James Melvin, who followed up his first-team, all-area selection last season with an even better 2002 campaign.

"He batted an incredible .524 for the season and .594 in league games. He drove in 33 runs with 44 hits, 15 of which were doubles."

Melvin struck out only nine times in 84 at-bats and drew 23 walks. That good eye at the plate was just one element that made Melvin such a good hitter, according to coach Bob Snell.

"Pitchers could never fool him. He never swung at a bad pitch," Snell said. "He doesn't try to overpower the ball. He has strong hands and a quick bat, and just about all of his hits were hard line drives."

Drew Stanton, Harrison: One of the top players in the state and maybe the country, Stanton led the Hawks to two WLAA championships and a 50-13 record over two seasons.

Stanton pitched, played shortstop and batted No. 3 in the order. He hit .474 with six doubles, six triples, six home runs and a school-record 58 RBI.

He also scored 48 runs, had seven sacrifices, walked 10 times, had 21 stolen bases and struck out three times in 116 chances. Stanton was 9-2 as a pitcher with a 0.96 ERA, 88 strikeouts

and 23 walks in 58 1/3 innings.

"In 32 years, I think he's the best all-around baseball player Harrison has ever had, and he led us to two great years," coach John Harrington said, adding Stanton was the first to draw serious interest from Major League clubs.

Stanton, an all-state quarterback who made the Division II all-state first team in baseball, said he would honor a commitment to football at Michigan State and was not drafted.

"He set 11 school records and the one that meant the most to me (was RBI)," Harrington added. "Although he was a great pitcher, he drove in the most runs (118 in two years). To me that's the mark of a clutch player."

Brandon Aljourny, John Glenn: The senior shortstop-pitcher helped Glenn to a 23-8 record and a share of the WLAA Lakes Division crown with Farmington and Stevenson as he batted .449 (44-for-98) with two homers, four triples and 10 doubles.

He had a slugging percentage of .694 and an on-base average of .496. Aljourny knocked in 28 runs and scored 17 en route to All-WLAA and all-region honors. He also had 11 stolen bases.

Defensively, Aljourny made just four errors with 46 assists and 23 putouts. On the mound, the right-hander went 2-3 in 46.1 innings with a 2.72 ERA. He struck out 56 and walked only 15.

"Brandon improved his offensive production this year and proved to be a pretty good all-around player," Glenn coach Todd Duffield said. "He's also a guy we choose as our No. 1 pitcher."

Matt Humenay, Churchill: The senior shortstop batted No. 2 in the lineup, hitting .390 (39-for-100) with a team-high 34 runs scored.

He also finished with 16 RBI and swiped 16 bases. Humenay, who is headed for Madonna University, also pitched when called upon. He was a three-year starter.

"Matt is a good contact hitter who struck out only five times," Churchill coach Herb Osterland said. "He's also sound defensively and has an great throwing arm."

"He only has one flaw - he tries so hard."

Tony Luttman, Farmington: Luttman was Farmington's primary offensive threat for three seasons. He capped a fine varsity career by hitting .425 and amassing 40 RBI.

He had 45 hits, including seven doubles, one triple and six home runs. The senior right fielder had 15 walks, scored 30 runs and had just 11 strikeouts in 106 at-bats.

As a pitcher, he was 4-3 with a 3.44 ERA; he had 30 strikeouts and 41 walks in 73 innings.

Luttman, who will play at Henry Ford



Billy Rabe
Livonia Stevenson



Jimmy Barter
Wayne Memorial



Jason Christopoulos
Livonia Stevenson



Mark Hanson
Plymouth Canton



Eric Vojtkofsky
Catholic Central



Brent Habitz
Lutheran Westland



James Melvin
Redford Thurston



Drew Stanton
Farmington Harrison



Brandon Aljourny
Westland John Glenn

Community College, made the all-conference, all-region and Division I all-state second teams.

"He's a very intense young man," coach Pete Finn said. "He demands a lot of himself. He's one of the most determined players I've ever coached."

"He wants to be a player at the next level, so I push him hard for that. He has a lot of potential. He's going to be successful at whatever level of baseball he finishes his career."

Ryan Rogowski, Redford CC: Living up to expectations is often tougher than creating them. It will be very tough to fill the shoes of senior Ryan Rogowski.

A three-year starter for the Shamrocks, Rogowski finished his career with a .390 batting average and was a second-team, all-state selection in 2001.

He was also named All-Catholic the past two years and is weighing playing for the University of Michigan next season.

"Ryan is very determined and focused to succeed," Salter said. "He's one of those guys who makes others around him work harder. He has a good eye at the plate and a good arm in the field."

Preston Picard, Farmington: The speedy center fielder had a big senior year, hitting for a .414 average with 46 hits from the leadoff position.

He demonstrated exceptional power with 11 doubles, one triple, six home runs and a .694 slugging percentage. He also had 24 RBI, stole 13 bases and scored 40 runs.

Picard was 4-1 as a pitcher. He had 27

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