

2018 All-Journal Softball

Hansen runs away as Player of the Year

By Travis Rosenau
Journal Sports Writer

SLEEPY EYE — The season didn't end quite the way the Sleepy Eye St. Mary's softball team had hoped for, but the Knights still had another strong season after making it to the Class A state tournament in 2017.

The Knights finished this year with a 21-3 record, and senior Jody Hansen deserves a lot of the credit for her team's success. Hansen led the team in batting average (.507), RBIs (39), home runs (11) and runs scored (44).

Those numbers and her team's success were, without a doubt, enough to make Hansen a unanimous selection for this year's All-Journal Softball Player of the Year, as voted on by The Journal's sports staff.

She was also last season's All-Journal Co-Player of the Year in softball with then teammate Anna Lux, but this year she stood alone. She certainly didn't take all of the credit though.

All-Journal Softball 2018

First Team

- Jody Hansen, Sr., St. Mary's — 60 (4)
- Ali Beltz, sr., St. Mary's — 56
- Rose Hazuka, Sr., NUC — 51
- Josie Pautzke, Jr., NUC — 47
- Joey Batt, Jr., New Ulm — 37
- Dani Weiss, Sr., St. Mary's — 34
- Cora Eichten, So., Wabasso — 31
- Lauren Klein, Sr., Sleepy Eye — 30
- Emily Benz, Sr., Wabasso — 24

Second Team

- Ashlyn Donner, Jr., New Ulm — 20
- Kaila Brudelie, Sr., New Ulm — 20
- Jenna Frank, Jr., Wabasso — 16
- Lauryn Franta, Jr., NUC — 9
- Sarah Mohr, Fr., NUC — 9
- Lexi Fischer, Jr., MVL — 9
- Jenna Helget, Sr., NUC — 6
- Courtney Davis, Sr., Madelia — 6
- Heidi Hoffman, Jr., NUC — 3

Honorable Mention

Megan Rothmeier, Jr., Wabasso
Hayley Selby, 8th, Nicollet
Marah Hulke, 8th, Nicollet
Noelle Forstner, So., New Ulm

"I'm really honored that I even got this [award] by myself," Hansen said. "But a lot of that doesn't show that it's from my teammates, too. ... I can't get RBIs if they don't get on base and such. So a lot of it comes from them. I'm very honored because I've put a lot of hard work into it throughout the years, but I thank my teammates and my

coaches and people for just pushing me because I would not even have been close to it if they weren't there."

Hansen was more than just a solid and consistent hitter for St. Mary's though. The shortstop was quick on the basepaths and a legitimate threat to steal at any moment, with 14 stolen bases this year and 32 stolen bases last year. She was also a top defensive asset and a smart leader with intangibles that Knights head coach Wendy Owens said she couldn't teach.

"There's things that — as a coach — you'd like to take credit for, but she's just a natural," Owens said. "She does things on the field that you can't necessarily coach. That's just in her and an instinctual kind of thing. She's been a definite asset for the last four or five years that we've had her. And unfortunately, those years go by rather quickly and she will be gone, and we wish her the best obviously as she continues on."

Hansen

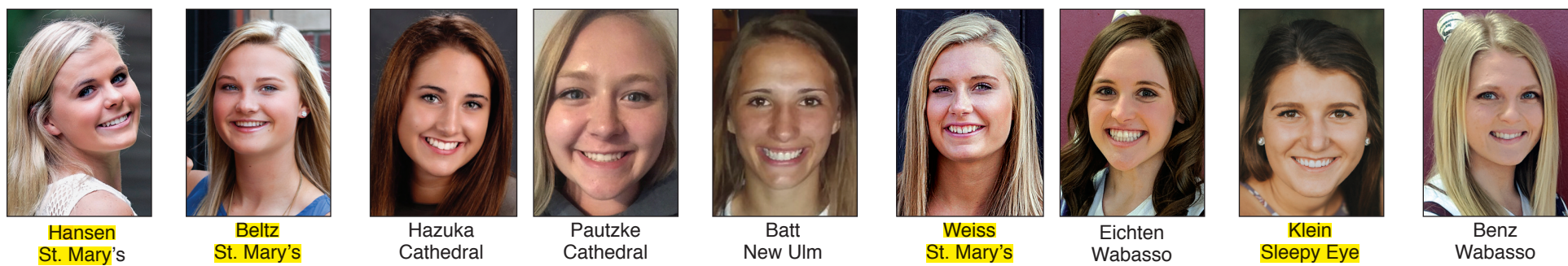
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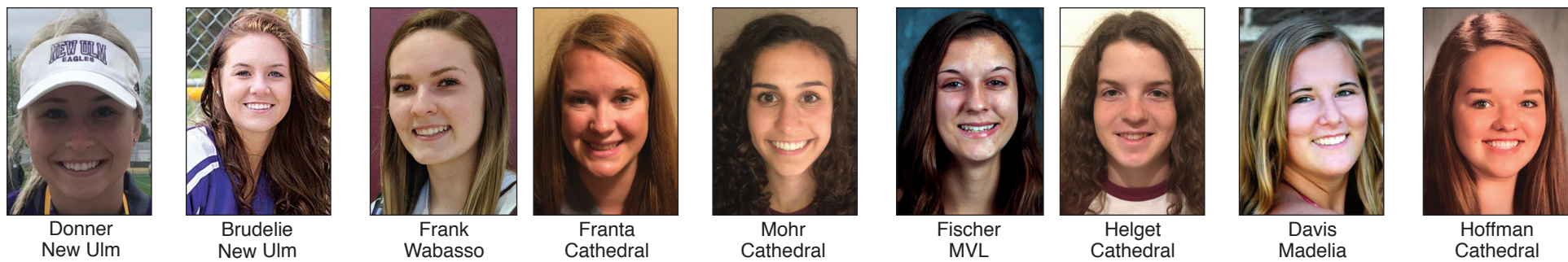
Photo illustration by Steve Muscatello

Jody Hansen of Sleepy Eye St. Mary's won the 2018 All-Journal Softball Player of the Year.

First Team



Second Team



St. Mary's, Cathedral players lead All-Journal softball team

All-Journal Softball 2018 First Team
Jody Hansen, Sr., St. Mary's
Hansen had a phenomenal year all-around for the Knights en route to a 21-3 year. The senior led the team in batting average (.507), RBIs (39), home runs (11) and runs scored (44).

She has been an All-Conference player the last four years and won the Tomahawk Conference Player

of the Year award this year. She added 38 hits this year. Coming off a co-player of the year award a season ago at The Journal, Hansen ends her career with a .516 BA, 24 homers, 175 hits, 127 RBIs, 32 doubles and 14 triples.

Ali Beltz, Sr., St. Mary's
Beltz has been an All-Conference selection the last four seasons

for the Knights and had a .548 BA, 40 hits and 28 RBIs her senior year. The two-time All-Journal First Team member wraps up her career with a .545 BA, 146 RBIs, 13 homers and 183 hits.

Rose Hazuka, Sr., NUC
Hazuka had a .476 batting average on the way to helping lead the New Ulm Cathedral Greyhounds to another Tomahawk Conference

title and also back to the state tournament this year. The Tomahawk All-Conference catcher led the team in RBIs with 36 and hits with 30.

She also added six doubles and four homers. Hazuka ends her career with a .392 BA, 95 RBIs, 83 hits and 18 doubles.

Josie Pautzke, Jr., NUC
Josie Pautzke was Cathedral's

top pitcher this year with a 1.81 ERA, 88 strikeouts and 20 walks allowed. She allowed just 21 earned runs and was 17-1 on the year from the circle.

Pautzke hit .418 with 28 hits and 24 RBIs. She also added five homers to lead the team in round-trippers. She was an All-Conference selection this year as well.

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No. 1 Sun: Phoenix takes Ayton, Wolves select Okogie

NEW YORK (AP) — The Phoenix Suns stayed close to home for their first No. 1 pick. The Dallas Mavericks looked all the way to Slovenia for the player they hope can be their next European superstar.

Shortly after the Suns took Deandre Ayton to start the NBA draft Thursday night, the Mavericks traded up two spots for the rights to Luka Doncic.

The Atlanta Hawks swapped the rights to Doncic, the No. 3 pick who has spent the last year winning championships all over Europe, to Atlanta for Trae Young, the No. 5 selection from Oklahoma.

The Mavericks also gave up a future first-round pick to draft Doncic, who only arrived in New York on Wednesday after helping Spain's Real Madrid win its league championship after he won Euroleague MVP and Final Four MVP honors

when they won that title this year.

His lengthy European season kept him from working out for teams but he knew the Mavericks were interested in having him on their team for what's expected to be Dirk Nowitzki's final NBA season.

"I've been talking to Dallas a lot. They really wanted me, and they were very, very nice," the 19-year-old said. "They were very nice to me, and I think we had a very good relationship."

The Hawks will get perhaps the most exciting player in college basketball last season in Young, the first player to lead the nation in scoring and assists in the same season.

"Whatever city I went to, I was going to be able to be comfortable in," Young said. "I was just really excited to get to Atlanta."

Otherwise, the top of the draft was dominated by big men, starting with a pair of former high school

teammates.

The Suns made the 7-foot-1 Ayton the first No. 1 pick in franchise history. The center from Arizona averaged 20.1 points and 11.6 rebounds in his lone season in Tucson, tying for the national lead with 24 double-doubles in 35 games.

He joined Mychal Thompson — father of Golden State All-Star Klay Thompson — in 1978 as the only players from the Bahamas to be the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft.

"Having my name called to be the first pick for the Phoenix Suns was mind-blowing," Ayton said. "Having all that confidence and leading up to that point when I saw Adam Silver came out, I was just waiting for my name, and when he called it, my mind went blank."

Draft

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Arizona's Deandre Ayton, right, poses with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver after the Phoenix Suns selected Ayton with the first pick in the NBA basketball draft in New York, Thursday. (AP Photo/Kevin Hagen)

Porcello allows 1 hit through 7; Red Sox beat Twins

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — What Rick Porcello did six days ago carried over into an outstanding performance.

Porcello allowed one hit in seven innings, Mookie Betts and Andrew Benintendi homered, and the Boston Red Sox beat the Minnesota Twins 9-2 Thursday to avoid a series sweep. Xander Bogaerts had two

RBIs for the Red Sox, who had a season-high 16 hits, and finished 6-4 on a road trip through Baltimore, Seattle and Minnesota.

"We definitely needed a win today, especially to end this long road trip after dropping the first two games to these guys," Porcello said.

He was dominant in a game that was 2-0 through

six innings.

After a first-inning single by Logan Morrison, ending a 0-for-30 stretch against Boston, Porcello (9-3) retired 19 of 20 Twins hitters, including the last 16. Throwing 97 pitches, he struck out five and walked one.

Porcello finished seven innings for the first time in 10 starts since April 29.

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Today's Events
FRIDAY, JUNE 22
AMATEUR BASEBALL
Lamberton at Searles, 8 p.m.
Hanska at Springfield, 8 p.m.

Scores

AL	NL
N.Y. Yankees 4, Seattle 3	Colorado 6, N.Y. Mets 4
Boston 9, Minnesota 2	Arizona 9, Pittsburgh 3
Washington 4, Baltimore 2	Washington 4, Baltimore 2
Oakland at Chicago White Sox (n)	Cincinnati 6, Chicago Cubs 2
	St. Louis at Milwaukee (n)
Toronto at L.A. Angels (n)	San Diego at San Francisco (n)

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