

Sports Connection

Softball team finishes strong

The MV softball team may have been small in numbers, but it was sure big in heart. The girls had an outstanding finish to the season, making it to the third round in district play.

The team finished with a 15-36 overall record, with a 6-10 record in the conference which was good for sixth place.

According to Coach Jesenovec, highlights of the season were splitting with Alburnett in conference and beating Beckman to move on in districts.

With only two seniors, the team relied heavily on the underclassmen to play well. Coach Jesenovec stated that one of the strengths of the team was the number of young players gaining varsity experience for the future.

Team awards included: Determination Award - Michelle Dettbarn, Golden Glove Award - Lisa Jesenovec and Most Improved Award - Jill Heims.

Making All-Conference were Michelle Dettbarn as first team outfield, Lisa Jesenovec as first team infield and Whitney Robertson as honorable mention. Lisa Jesenovec also made the All-District team at infield.



Jill Heims slides into base during their district game against Marion. (photo courtesy of Pete Temple)

Baseball

Team Excels

Summer means something special to everyone, and for the members of the MV baseball team, it meant playing ball and having some fun.

The Cats finished second in the conference with a 12-4 record. Their overall record was 23-8.

Coach Cassutt stated the season included several highlights. The Cats defeated CPU, ending the Pointers' 71 game winning streak in the conference. MV also scored 10 runs in the top of the seventh inning at Cascade after trailing 0-7 to win 10-7. Two other big wins were against a ranked 3-A Western Dubuque team and state qualifier Jesup. Another highlight was ending the regular season on a 13 game winning streak.

According to Coach Cassutt, senior leadership, good pitching and strong hitting made the team as successful as it was.

"Our pitching was really what made it the type of season it was," he stated.

Statistically, the Cats had a team ERA of 3.33 and they hit an even .300 as a team.

Winning team awards were: Most Improved: Justy Feldt; Mr. Hustle: Ryan Parsons; Wildcat Dedication: Dusty Melchert; Most Valuable Wildcat: Garrett Kuehl; Coaches Award: Nick Jay and Derrick Parsons

Coach Cassutt was named Conference Coach of the Year.

Named to the all-conference roster were: Jonathon Thomas- unanimous first team pitcher, Garrett Kuehl- unanimous first team shortstop, Robbie Mohr- first team utility, Nick Jay- second team pitcher, Blake Humpal- second team outfielder, Honorable mention- Derrick Parsons and Ryan Parsons

Thomas was selected for Second Team All District utility and Humpal for outfield.

Jonathon Thomas winds up for the pitch in the Cats' game against Cascade. (photo courtesy of Pete Temple)

